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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
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application for \$4.5
million so it could
rent power engines
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stabilize Saipan's
power supply?

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INSIDE



Pricey Oil

Oil settled above \$145 a barrel for the third time this month.

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Strike

Fishermen across Japan went on a massive one-day strike to protest fuel prices.

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A massive Catholic youth celebration kicked off Tuesday with an Australian "G'Day."

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NMI hotels see slight boost in June occupancy. PAGE 6

DHS AND CHAMBER TALK FEDERALIZATION

'Visa limits may be same as US'

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Department of Homeland Security officials have reportedly hinted that foreign investors in the Commonwealth could face the same visa restrictions seen in the U.S. mainland despite hopes for a local exception from the rules.

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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Igor V. Timofeyev, director of immigration policy and special adviser for refugee and asylum affairs at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, talks to members of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant yesterday afternoon.

151 Filipino workers get \$500,000 in back wages



The U.S. Department of Labor is now looking for 151 Filipino construction workers who are owed \$500,000 in back wages by a Saipan-based construction company.

The department says the money is

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Anna Archila, back wage clerk
■ e-mail: archila.anna@dol.gov,
■ phone: 415-625-7697
■ fax: 415-625-7699

now available following an agreement it reached with Sablan Construction Co.

The back wages are owed to 151

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Muña advises against buying new engines

Saipan's long-term power solution may not lie in the purchase of a new power plant, according to CUC executive director Antonio S. Muña.

He said that, based on CUC's 2006 Financial Statement Audit, CUC has al-

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- Wind energy proposal may relieve CUC woes. PAGE 5

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Local

Rotary names Pellegrino 'Citizen of the Year'

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jacquie_dela_cruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan has named businessman Anthony

Pellegrino as this year's Citizen of the Year during the group's Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The Rotary conferred the

award on Pellegrino after a rigorous selection process by the Counsel of Past Presidents.

It is a time-honored tradition of the Counsel of Past Presidents

to create a list of potential nominees, nominate the individual, and vote on the nomination.

The criteria for selection of the Saipan Rotary Club's Citi-

zen of the Year include good moral character, good standing in the community, demonstration of time-tested devotion to family and the community that he or she serves, and the respect and admiration by and for his or her fellow man.

When applied to the individual, the Citizen of the Year recipient can hold his or her character up to Rotary's canons of the Four Way Test: "Is it the truth?", "Is it fair to all concerned?", "Will it build better friendships and goodwill?", and "Will it be beneficial to all concerned?"

Pellegrino is a long-time educator and businessman. He has a master of liberal arts from Temple University. He was a public school teacher for six years in the United States and six years in Japan. He also taught at the University of Maryland, Japan Department, for four years. On the business side, Pellegrino has been a business-

man for over 46 years.

The 2008 honoree will be added to the list of other honored individuals such as Bishop Thomas A. Camacho, Lt. Gov. Francisco Ada, Susan Palacios Schwartz, Double Past President and Charter member Dave Sablan, Jose C. Tenorio, and Manuel Villagomez, to name a few.

Miura takes bail issue to CNMI Supreme Court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kazuyoshi Miura yesterday appealed Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona's decision denying his request to allow him to post bail.

William M. Fitzgerald, one of Miura's three lawyers on Saipan, filed a notice of appeal in the Superior Court.

Fitzgerald said Miura is appealing Manglona's order denying his motion for bail modification. The lawyer attached Manglona's decision in their notice of appeal. No other statement was given.

In a written decision issued on June 25, 2008, Manglona ruled that Miura's argument that his situation presents special circumstances that allow for bail "misses the mark."

Citing a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in a case that, according to Manglona, resemble in some respects those of Miura as argued, the judge said under the federal Extradition Act, "it is for the California courts to do justice in this case based upon its substantive law and procedures, not the CNMI courts."

Miura moved to modify the bail. The defense counsel's position is that denial of an opportunity for the 60-year-old Miura to obtain bail violates rights provided him under the U.S. and CNMI Constitutions.

In addition to due process rights to liberty, the defense also maintained that Miura is entitled to bail under the "special circumstances" doctrine.

The Attorney General's Office argued that the CNMI extradition statute explicitly states that someone who is charged with capital offense is not entitled to bail.

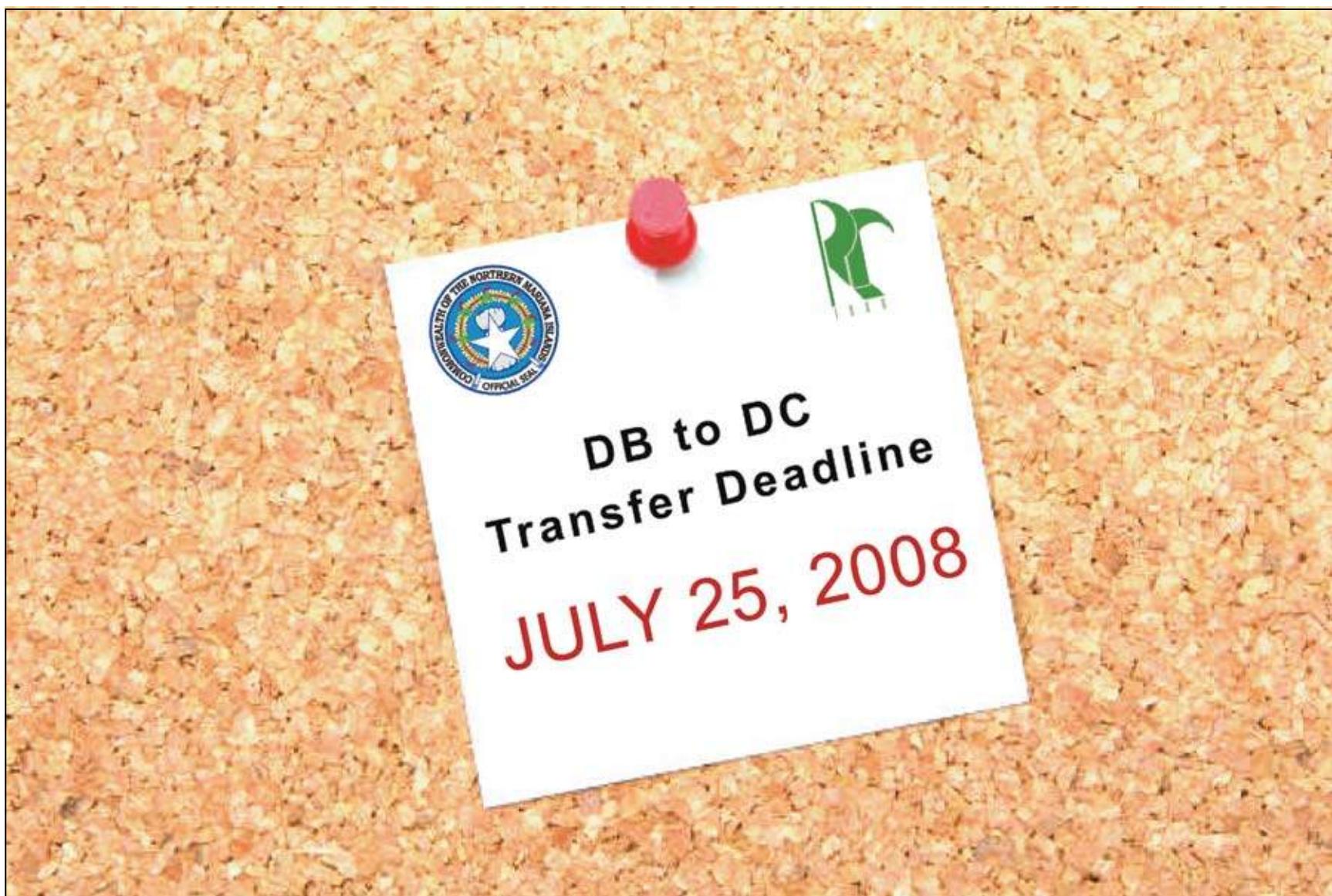
In the hearing of the motion last June 19, Manglona orally denied Miura's bail modification request.

The State of California is seeking Miura's extradition on charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder in connection with the killing of his wife in 1981. Miura has been in jail since he was arrested at the Saipan International Airport last February.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

2008 Rotary Citizen of the Year recipient Anthony Pellegrino is joined by his family and Rotary Club of Saipan officers during the group's regular Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovannis restaurant.



If you are a Class 1 employee with less than 10 years of government service, your opportunity to transfer from the Defined Benefit (DB) to Defined Contribution (DC) Retirement Plan will end on **Friday, July 25, 2008**. Please contact ASC Trust Corporation for more information.



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'Three issues central to federalization talks'

A visiting official from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has cited the CNMI's labor supply, attractiveness to foreign investors, and access to tourists as the three main issues central to discussions about the implementation of the Commonwealth's new immigration law.

Igor Timofeyev, director of immigration policy and special advisor for refugee and asylum at the DHS, said the drafters of the regulations are aware of the Commonwealth's concerns about the potential impact of

immigration "federalization" on the local economy. He added that these concerns will be taken into account as the DHS and other agencies write the regulations.

Speaking at the Saipan Rotary Club meeting yesterday, Timofeyev said the regulations will ensure there will be enough workers to fill jobs in the Commonwealth under the federalized system.

He added that the drafters of the regulations will study carefully the CNMI's concerns about its future ability to attract

Wiseman tops in published decisions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman was tops among the five judges in the Superior Court in terms of published decisions issued in 2007.

According to the CNMI Judiciary Annual Report for Calendar Year 2007, Wiseman made nine published opinions.

Associate Judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona was second with eight published opinions. Juan T. Lizama, who retired last May, followed with six opinions.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo produced three opinions, while presiding judge Robert C. Naraja did not publish any decision.

Wiseman told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday it is the judge who determines whether or not his or her decision should be published.

"But it should be done pursuant to section 3404 Title 1 of the Commonwealth Code, which is titled Written Opinions," Wiseman said.

He said section 3404 Title 1

of the Commonwealth Code states that "decisions of the Supreme Court and of the Superior Court which determine a case and decisions which determine a substantial question of procedure or substantive law shall be set forth in written opinions,

with the reasons for the decision stated,

within one year of submis-

sion of the case for decision,

and shall be published in con-

sultation with the Law Revision

Commission."

"So it's really the judge's call in deciding whether a decision has any substantial question of procedure or substantive law," he pointed out.

Wiseman said once a judge decides that his or her opinion is for publication, the Law Revision Commission puts it out as a published decision, so if someone is conducting research it will be listed in the research area.

"A search of the Law Revision Commission will uncover all published decisions of the Superior Court," he said.

Wiseman also said that published opinions also go to various agencies and the media.

foreign investors and future access to the emerging tourism markets of China and Russia.

Timofeyev noted that the DHS and other agencies involved in drafting the regulations will have to follow established cri-

teria for including countries in the visa waiver program, but he said that, "certainly, one issue we will look at is economic impact and the potential for economic development."

Timofeyev is one of the 10

Torres withdraws support from transparency petition

A lawmaker has withdrawn his signature from a petition to apply the Open Government Act to the Legislature.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres, who had signed a petition to place the initiative on the ballot, said he had changed his mind about the proposed amendment to the law, which currently exempts the Legislature from the government transparency statute.

Torres, in a letter to the At-

torney General's Office, said he now believes the initiative is "unnecessary and would impede the legislative process."

In an interview, Torres said that lawmakers are willing to open their records to public scrutiny even though they are not covered by the Open Government Act.

But Rep. Tina Sablan, the proponent of the initiative, said it should be left to the

federal officials visiting the island to collect information on the existing immigration system and get local perspective on the new immigration rules. The visiting delegation is made up of representatives from the

DHS, Office of Insular Affairs, Citizenship and Immigration Service, and Customs Border Protection, among other agencies. The group arrived on Friday and will leave today. (Agnes E. Donato)

ment Act applies to all other government agencies, the Legislature passed a law in 1994 to exempt itself from the act's provisions. The petition calls for a law re-applying the government transparency law to the Legislature.

Individuals interested in signing the petition or helping gather signatures may reach Sablan at 285-3935 or tinasablan@gmail.com. (Agnes E. Donato)

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Pago Pago tuna fleet fights congressman's bill

Say Faleomavaega wants to give fishing rights away

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (Samoa News/PIR)—The U.S. Tuna-boat Owners Coalition has asked Gov. Togiola Tulafono and Fono leaders to oppose Rep. Eni Faleomavaega's H.R. 2830 provision, saying his criticism of the Pago-based tuna fleet is a "smokescreen" to hide the giving away of "valuable ship-building entitlement and the exclusive right of U.S. - built

boats to fish in neighboring U.S. Pacific Islands' waters."

The USTOC says it is an ad hoc group representing the Pago Pago-based tuna fleet, and made the request in a letter dated June 26, from USTOC chair Joe Finete to Togiola.

Copies of the letter were sent to Lt. Gov. Faoa A. Sunia, Senate President Lolo M. Moliga and House Speaker

Savali Talavou Ale.

In his letter, Finete said it is shocking to discover that Faleomavaega's provision gives foreign-built boats, without any apparent payment, the right to fish in the vast waters around the U.S. islands north of Samoa (Baker, Howland, Jarvis, Johnston, Kingman Reef, Palmyra Atoll, and Wake Island.)

He said fishing in these islands' wa-

ters is currently reserved under law for boats built under the U.S. flag, including American Samoa.

Finete also contends that the congressman quietly introduced his "give-away provision" last September and it is telling that there are no co-sponsors, no hearing in Washington or American Samoa, nor was it ever voted upon in the subcommittee or full committee of jurisdiction.

"Instead, Faleomavaega's gift to his

foreign friends was silently inserted into the House Coast Guard Authorization Act, H.R. 2830, in April, 2008," wrote Finete. "In fact, the Delegate did not have the courtesy to discuss his plan and the harmful impact on our tuna fleet or the economy of the Territory we both call home."

Faleomavaega said in a statement in May that his provision to H.R. 2830 - which was approved by the U.S. House on April 24 - would allow U.S. purse seine vessels to fish in the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of all the Pacific Island Parties including any of the U.S. EEZs except Hawaii.

lumbia River and deliver to the biggest landfill in Washington state.

The planned 100,000 tons a year is only about 6 percent of the island's trash.

"It's a Band-Aid on a bullet hole," said John Guinan of the Trash Man Hawaii, a garbage hauling company. "But we don't really have much of an alternative at this point." At the same time, he warned: "I guess it's a good idea until the barge tips over and we'll have a massive spill in the South Pacific."

HAWAII'S

From Page 1

airport inspections, but now wants to put mountains of garbage on oceangoing barges.

"That's certainly not the type of aloha we need to send to the mainland," said Jeff Mikulina, Sierra Club-Hawaii director. "It's our responsibility to take care of that here at home."

Several mainland municipalities, from New York City to Anchorage, Alaska, have been exporting trash for years, and the practice is on the rise.

For all its natural beauty—spectacular mountains, volcanic-sand beaches, and a delightful floral scent that rides on the gentle sea breezes—Oahu produces an awful lot of garbage: 10 pounds per resident a day, compared with a national average of 4.5, according to Russell Nanod of Waste Management, the

company that operates the sole municipal landfill.

This may be because of the millions of tourists visiting each year, or because nearly everything from fresh vegetables to construction materials has to be shipped to the islands, requiring a lot of packaging that ultimately ends up in the trash.

The most urban of the seven populated Hawaiian Islands, Oahu has dozens of high-rises, the military base at

Pearl Harbor and Hawaii's biggest city, Honolulu. It generates nearly 1.8 million tons of trash per year, and about 500,000 tons of that is buried in the municipal landfill. At that rate, the 200-acre landfill will be at capacity within 15 years.

The Honolulu City Council, which governs all of Oahu, wants to hire a company to haul some of it away. One bidder is proposing to take the trash across the Pacific, sail it up the Co-

MUÑA

From Page 1

ready invested \$123 million in electric plant assets as of Sept. 30, 2006.

"The problem has not been with the purchase of new generators," said Muña. "The problem comes in maintaining the generators after they have been purchased."

Currently, of the five power plants serving the CNMI, the most efficient power plants are operated by Telesource CNMI Inc (Telesource) on Tinian and Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp. at Power Plant IV on Saipan.

Of the eight engines at Power Plant 1, only four are operational and are due for overhauls. At the Rota power plant, the two largest engines were last overhauled in 2001.

Muña admits that CUC has repeatedly failed miserably in maintaining its power production assets while

Telesource and PMIC have been very successful in preserving their capital assets.

Muña said there are a variety of reasons for this situation, some of which include, but are not limited to, the following factors:

1) CUC rate charges were set below cost for many years. The rates charged since CUC's inception were not sufficient to recover for cost of operations, accumulate a maintenance fund reserve, and service debt.

2) Recommended OEM (original equipment manufacturer) maintenance plans were not rigorously followed under previous CUC managements. Obviously, lacking necessary funding precluded compliance with recommended maintenance plans.

3) Inadequate training of CUC maintenance personnel. The recruitment and retention of required maintenance personnel were not accomplished. On 9/30/07, despite needing to retain non-

resident maintenance personnel workforce, CUC was forced to release its nonresident workforce due to legislation enacted prohibiting their retention. As of 9/30/07, PPI still had six operational engines. As of today, only four engines were operational.

While some recommend that CUC or the CNMI government buy, at a minimum, \$45 million worth of new generators on top of the \$123 million already invested in electric plant assets to solve Saipan's power problems, Muña advises that power production can be stabilized and secured with much less upfront investment than the purchase of brand new generators.

Muña's strategy for long-term power stability includes the following key points:

1) Lease temporary power capacity from Aggreko at a cost of \$6 million (if 12 months) or \$9 million for a maximum if 18 months.

2) Execute an emergency RFP to

complete Engine 7 overhaul and possibly engine 5 with the remaining \$1.5 million of OIA/CDA funding. CUC to provide parts. Engine 5 & Engine 7 overhauls are required as insurance (if procurement process in item 3 below is delayed) so we can terminate Aggreko contract in 12 months without having loss of power production to meet current demand. Engine 5 & 7 overhaul could produce 22MW of power to replace 15MW provided by Aggreko.

3) Issue RFP for IPP contract for CUC to purchase power. Offeror may consider taking over operation (and rehabilitation) of PPI in its proposal. All capital costs for continued rehabilitation of PPI or purchase of new generators and related infrastructure to be borne by successful offerror. If CUC is required to provide fuel and lube oil, then engine efficiency is a performance factor. Offerror proposing the lowest purchase price per KWH will

be awarded the contract conditional to engine efficiency and minimum buy.

Although the minimum required generation capacity and length of contract for proposed IPP RFP is yet to be determined, Muña stated that CUC must consider PMIC contract term expiring 31 July 2016, alternative energy commercial production impact, plus net metering before specifying required generation capacity minimum.

In the final tally, Muña's proposal to restore power production reliability has upfront costs of \$7.5MM to \$11.5MM with CUC or the CNMI government not having to worry about future costly power plant maintenance.

Muña said that while some are recommending that the CNMI Government or CUC borrow a minimum of \$45 million and possibly more if new plant infrastructure is required, costly power plant maintenance will continue to be a concern with such proposals. (PR)

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From Page 1

workers who were employed by the company between March 19, 1999, and Dec. 7, 2001, and who were not paid overtime wages for all hours worked in accordance with the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

"We would like these back wages delivered to the workers who earned them," said George Friday Jr., western regional administrator of the Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division. "Anyone knowing of a former worker at this business should encourage that individual to step forward."

Friday said many of the workers have already left Saipan, often returning to

the Philippines, before the agency was able to complete the back wage collection process.

Friday's office does not have a complete listing of current addresses for all eligible Sablan Construction employees and is working with representatives from the Philippine government to locate and notify workers eligible for the back wage distribution.

Former workers who are listed on the consent judgment filed with the U.S. District Court on Saipan can request back wages by contacting Anna Archila, back wage clerk, via e-mail at archila.anna@dol.gov, by phone at 415-625-7697 or by fax at 415-625-7699.

The FLSA requires that covered, non-exempt employees receive overtime at one and one-half times their regular rates

of pay for hours worked beyond 40 per week. Employers must also maintain accurate time and payroll records.

Information about the FLSA is available on the Wage and Hour Division's home page at www.wagehour.dol.gov, by calling the division toll-free at 866-4US-WAGE (487-9243) or by calling the division's office on Saipan at 670-233-0740. (Saipan Tribune)

VISA

From Page 1

In a closed-door meeting Tuesday with Saipan Chamber of Commerce representatives on the pending federal takeover of local immigration and labor, the visiting DHS delegation implied that the Commonwealth will not get any special exemptions from federal visa restrictions, sources privy to the meeting said.

Held at the Chamber's offices in Garapan, the meeting marked the first initial talks between a key Chamber committee formed in anticipation of the federal takeover and DHS about the regulations the agency is crafting after President Bush earlier this year signed the so-called "federalization" bill.

Business leaders have long said federalization could harm the local econo-

my, which is largely dependant on alien labor, by limiting the number of foreign workers that can be brought into the Commonwealth and stifle foreign investment by imposing strict rules on investor visas. In contrast, proponents of the bill say it will lead to a more stable immigration status for foreign workers.

The meeting with DHS comes as Gov. Benigno Fitial is poised to sue the federal government over the new law and its economic consequences. Nevertheless, Chamber President James Arenovski described Tuesday's meeting as "positive," saying it will help to "start a dialogue" with the agency as it pens the new rules.

"I think they're looking to us for some direction on how things work here and for something that will help to give us workers during the transitional period," Arenovski said in an interview after the meeting. "They want to make

sure we have what we need for our businesses and our workers."

Chief among the issues that surfaced during the several hours of talks, sources said, were federalization's impact on foreign labor and its consequences for foreign investments, a major source of new business for the region.

"We discussed the visa issues for Chinese and Russian tourists, labor and guest worker concerns, as well as investor visas," said Lynn Knight, chairperson of the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands, who attended the meeting. "This was an important beginning on these highly complex issues."

Investors have hoped DHS would consider a local exemption to American visa requirements that might otherwise apply to them. Yet Arenovski said DHS officials "made it fairly clear" during the meeting that foreign investors "would have to file under some

type of U.S. visa" to conduct business in the Commonwealth.

Alex Youn, president of Ace Investment Group and a member of the Chamber committee, echoed those statements saying it "sounds like we're not going to get any special exception on foreign investment visas compared to the other 50 states."

Strict federal rules on foreign investor visas, Youn added, could prove highly problematic for international businesses operating locally. The criteria for the two current visa classes now available to foreign investors could bar many applicants from getting visas, he said.

One class stipulates that "passive investments" like purchasing land would fall short of qualifying investors for a visa, Youn noted. The second class would grant visas to passive investors, but it carries a \$500,000 threshold for qualifying in addition to requiring that

the applicant hire 10 employees.

Businesses should begin studying the current labor and immigration regulations seen elsewhere in the United States in order to anticipate how the federal system is likely to operate, Youn added.

Several sources say that DHS' stance on the pending regulations, due for proposal later this year, is still tentative given a variety of factors that could influence how the rules take shape, including the installation of a new U.S. president next year and the typical notice-and-comment period federal agencies use to write rules.

DHS officials could not be reached for comment on this story. One federal official, however, noted that the federalization bill includes provisions that could prompt the agency to review the status of foreign investors after the rules are put in place.

CUC: Over \$400K had been paid to DCM

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has paid over \$400,000 under its failed contract for engine repairs at Saipan's main power plant.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna disclosed yesterday that the Guam-based DCM Group received a mobilization fee of \$268,000 and an additional \$145,000 for work done on the eighth engine at Power Plant 1.

Muna also said the DCM Group has sent CUC additional billings amounting to \$300,000 to \$500,000. But these billings are still under dispute. CUC believes it has been overcharged to the tune of hundreds of dollars.

CUC terminated the \$5.1-million deal last week after the DCM Group failed to repair the

Calvo pleads not guilty

Former Saipan Rotary Club president Patrick Mendiola Calvo maintained his innocence on charges that he sexually abused an underaged girl.

During Monday's arraignment in the Superior Court, the

43-year-old Calvo waived a reading of the charging information. He also waived a advisement of his personal and constitutional rights.

The defendant, through lawyer Anthony Long, pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Calvo was charged with sexual assault in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree, and disturbing the peace.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja set the status conference for Sept. 1, 2008 at 1:30pm.

At the status conference, the judge said, the prosecution and the defense should be prepared to inform the court whether the case will be disposed of by a change of plea, trial, or other disposition.

Calvo surrendered to police on June 16 to face the charges. He was subsequently temporarily released on bail.

Detective Andrea C. Ozawa stated in her report that Calvo allegedly assaulted a 13-year-old girl on June 11.

Calvo allegedly told the girl not to inform her mother of what he did to her. The minor, however, told her mother about the incident.

Calvo is the owner of Calvo's Nursery and Landscaping and the Island Farmers Market. He was the president of the Saipan Rotary Club when he surrendered to police. (Ferdie de la Torre)

generators, as required by the contract. The termination has prompted questions from government officials and community leaders about the possibility of recovering some funds from the DCM Group.

"As far as getting any money back, really, at this point, the attorneys need to look at what rights we do have to recover any money that we have paid

already," said Muna.

Meanwhile, CUC's next move is to launch another procurement process for the work left undone by the DCM Group. Muna said the utility this week will formally seek proposals from companies interested in repairing two of the generators—Engines 7 and 5—at Power Plant 1.

Muna said CUC hopes to get

interested firms to respond within 15 to 30 days of the request for proposals being issued. "We definitely want that moving forward as soon as possible," he said.

Funds for the new contract will come from the \$1.8 million remaining of the \$6.5 million federal money reprogrammed to CUC.

CUC hired the DCM Group in December 2007 to repair

seven of the eight generators at the main power plant in Lower Base. Under the \$5.1 million contract, DCM Group was to complete the rehabilitation by June 2008. To date, however, five of the engines are still down.

Muna notified the Guam-based DCM Group Inc. of the termination in a letter on Thursday, July 10, 2008. The termination came about a month after the utility issued a notice of default to DCM for

falling behind schedule.

The DCM Group has said it is having problems getting the needed parts to repair the engines. The contractor asked for more time, but Muna denied the request.

"The continuing failure of DCM to meet its contractual obligations and the resulting delays in providing electricity to the citizens of the Commonwealth is unacceptable," Muna said. "DCM has not cured its default of [the contract]. That contract is terminated."

tailed in the use of wind energy such as noise levels, the height of wind towers, maintenance standards and safety rules.

"The board understands that wind energy systems can provide lower-cost power for homeowners, small businesses and for commercial power production," Tilley said in a statement. "The board wants to provide basic guidance to ensure that small and large wind energy systems are safe and compatible with the neighborhoods where they are installed."

The CNMI Zoning Board will hold a public hearing on the proposal soon. Details on the hearing have yet to be announced.

Wind energy proposal may relieve CUC woes

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

A proposal issued by local zoning officials Monday could give consumers significant relief from skyrocketing electricity rates by paving the way for homes and businesses to get power through wind energy turbines.

The recent spike in Commonwealth Utilities Corp. electricity rates has forced consumers to take sometimes drastic steps to conserve energy or face mounting bills, a problem that has prompted many businesses to cut costs or reduce hours of

operation to cope.

Responding to the high cost of power, zoning administrator Steve Tilley on Monday released a series of proposed rules to let consumers erect relatively small wind turbines for generating power off CUC's grid. Tilley said zoning officials have seen rising interest in wind energy projects since the commencement of CUC's rate change but the government needs to approve regulations for them before consumers can put them in place.

The proposed regulations come after Gov. Benigno Fitial last year signed legislation

granting consumers power to the install home-based energy systems like solar panels and wind turbines. Proponents of alternative energy, however, have seen slow progress since then because regulations based on the new law have yet to be finalized.

Nevertheless, the CUC rate hike is giving consumers a greater incentive to look to the skies for energy, according to James Thomas, manager of Wind Sock Inc., a Saipan-based company poised to market wind turbines locally.

"Everybody needs to know the bottom line and bare facts

that the power situation on Saipan is not going to go back to the way it was," Thomas said. "CUC prices aren't going down."

The breed of wind energy turbines Thomas hopes to see on the island in the future—supplementing the energy supplied through the normal power grid—could give consumers a cost savings. When power in a building is shut off, he noted, the electricity generated through a turbine can even roll back the CUC meter, reducing power bills. The turbines are also much sleeker and quieter than older types of wind power technology.

The zoning proposal would regulate a host of factors en-

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Hotels see slight boost in June occupancy

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Hotels saw a slight jump in the

number of visitors they served in June compared to the same month last year, an increase tourism officials connect to the

resumption of air services from Asia and the slowly reviving tourism market.

Statistics released Tuesday

by the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands show that hotels sold an estimated 2,500 more rooms in

June compared to June 2008. Moreover, the average price of hotel rooms has risen \$10 since last year, a change due to recent renovations.

HANMI president Lynn Knight said the statistics are encouraging. "Hotels are moving in the right direction here and we're very hopeful that there will be continued improvements," she said.

Knight added that some hotels have undergone new renovations and other projects that have let them justify room price increases.

A key factor in the boost hotels are seeing, Knight said, is the resumption of flights from Asian tourism markets like Japan and Korea. New nighttime flights to Saipan from Tokyo, she added, will also likely bolster the hotel industry.

The Asian tourism market's recovery is apparent in HANMI's statistics, which

note that the number of Japanese hotel has climbed almost by 459 travelers in June 2008 over last year's total to 15,904. The amount of Korean visitors also rose above last year's figures by 477 people to 9,616. In contrast, however, Chinese tourism saw a significant drop of 487 visitors to a 1,142 below June 2008's number because, Knight said, seasonal airplane charter services from China are not in operation.

Meanwhile, the number of visitors from Guam and elsewhere in the United States also rose slightly last month compared to June 2008. In addition, Russian tourism saw a dramatic increase of more than 500 visitors to a total of 834. Last month's overall number of travelers according to the statistics, is up by almost a 1,000 people over June 2008 to 30,936.

Atalig launches CNMIspace.com

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_dela_cruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

A San Diego, Calif.-based college student has come up with the CNMI's first social networking site, CNMIspace.com.

In a long-distance interview, Charlie Ogo Atalig said the new website is similar to other networking sites such as myspace.com but focused on residents of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The website just started in July 10, 2008 but now has over 600 members. It is a non-subscription site, which means you don't have to pay anything to become a member.

To join, go to the website www.cnmispace.com and then click sign up.

From there, it will ask you basic information such as your email address, gender, location, and the user name and password

RELATED NEWS

Rotapreneur Profile: Charlie Atalig's CNMIspace.com!

PAGE 10

you want. You will be required to agree to the terms and condition and only after doing so will one become a member.

The goal of the website is "to connect the people of the CNMI from all around the globe," Atalig said.

The website offer users a way to find friends, show off their photos, build their own page, and express themselves.

"We offer features such as a gallery, polls, quizzes, events, forums, and blogs," said Atalig.

Atalig would like to express his gratitude to his parents, siblings, Jaclyn Michelle Cabrera, Karen Cabrera, Lucretia Barcinas, those who have joined, and to those who are helping promote the website.

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB08-DPH-081 (A)(B)(C)(D)
Opening Date: July 30, 2008 • Time: 10:30 a.m.
"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) ELECTRIC WHITEBOARD, FIFTEEN (15) UNIVERSAL POWER SUPPLIES, TWO (2) APC SMART-UPS 3000VA USB & SERIAL 230V AND ONE (1) DVR SECURITY SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH/ WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB08-DPH-080 (A)(B)(C)(D)
Opening Date: July 30, 2008 • Time: 10:00 a.m.
"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CONTINUOUS FORM FEED LASER PRINTER, SEVEN (7) LASER NETWORK PRINTER, ONE (1) DIGITAL DESKTOP COPIER/NETWORK PRINTER/FAX/COLOR SCANNER AND TWO (2) LAPTOP SYSTEM FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director, P&S

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Korean Community School of Saipan admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

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4	Akasuri Full Body	\$60 (60 mins.)
5	Deluxe Package SPA & Foot, Body Massage & Facial & Foot Care (Aroma/Coconut/Noni)	\$120 (90 mins)
6	Full Course Massage Noni Sauna Scrub, Foot/Head Massage, Body Noni Therapy Massage, Facial Massage & Body Treatment	\$150 (120 mins)

OPEN: 12:00 noon - 6:00 am
233-8882

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Friday, July 18, 2008 beginning at 6:00 PM on the 1st Floor of the Morgen Building, Suite #107; Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

- I. PRELIMINARIES**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
- II. CONSULTANT REPORTS**
 - Investment Consultant Reports
 - Performance Reports – June 20, 2008
 - Loan Administrator Reports
 - Status Reports – Recommendations/Collections
 - Legal Counsel Reports*
 - APLE 501
 - Board Consultant Reports
- III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
 - Office Space Matters
- IV. OLD BUSINESS**
 - Tinian Public Market
- V. NEW BUSINESS**
- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.
- VII. MISCELLANEOUS**
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PSS HEAD START PROGRAM
Head Start Policy Council
Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on July 22, 2008 (Tuesday), from 10:30am-2:30pm, Napu Conference Room of the Pacific Islands Club, San Antonio, Saipan.

- I. Preliminary Matters**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Quorum
 - D. Adoption of Agenda
 - E. Adoption of Minutes
 - 1. June 13, 2008
- II. Reports**
 - A. Program Director
 - 1. Monthly Report for June 2008
 - 2. Updates
 - 1. Program Improvement Projects
 - 2. Financial Report
 - 1. Monthly Financial Status Report for June 2008
 - 3. Standing Committees
 - 1. Personnel
 - 2. Education Curriculum
 - 3. Executive
 - 4. Finance
 - 5. Public Relations
 - III. Old Business**
 - IV. New Business**
 - A. Action Item
 - 1. Approval of Supplemental Grant Application-Amendment to 2008-9 Training and Technical Assistance Grant Application
 - V. Executive Session**
 - VI. Next Meeting**
 - VII. Adjournment**

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcomed to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Meyers at 664-3751.

Mr. Efrain Atalig
Chairperson

**CONTINENTAL DONATION**

Basula Produkto President Eric A. Cruz, right, hands over a \$1,080.00 check to one of the Awa Odori team members, headed by Ken Concepcion, left. This check was donated by Continental Micronesia as payment from scrap metals that they sold to Basula Produkto. Awa Odori will use the money for their fare to Japan where they will perform from Aug. 21 to 27, 2008. They will also take this opportunity to study the Japanese culture and tradition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Happy Birthday to Elite Printing's Rommell Buenaflo, who celebrated his birthday last July 11. Greetings from your loving wife and son.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**BIRTHDAY GIRL**

Birthday greetings go to Wushin Corp.'s Josie Vilanueva who celebrated her birthday last July 10. Greetings from your *Island Locator* friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**A PRAYER FOR SAFETY**

Roy Roger Ayuyu Kaipat (Sofang) left Saipan yesterday for his military deployment. His family prays to the Lord to protect him on this journey. "Keep him safe in the face of danger, keep him warm in the cold, protect him as he take another challenge to defend the freedom which we enjoy today." Greetings come from Jocelyn and Kevin Kapileo and the rest of the Alda's, Kaipats (Sofang), and Itibus families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**FOXY GIRL**

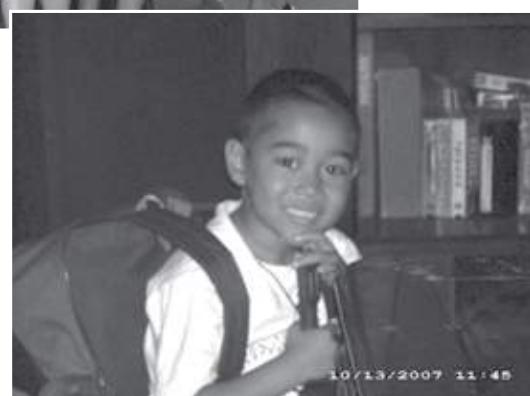
Happy birthday to the fabulous and foxy Polly Girl DL-Guerrero, who is celebrating her birthday today. Greetings coming from your fabulous friends and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ENGLISH LEARNERS

Saipan Grand Hotel welcomes its first English Learning Group from Russia. Picture shows Tatiana Babauta, Sales & Marketing Manager for Asia Pacific Hotels Inc; Butova Aleksandra, Kupina Viktoria, Krukova Polina, Gabshakurova Elisaveta, Kim Alina, Bak Yulia, Barannik Ksenia, Semenchukov Nikita, Zelinskaya Tamara (Guest Relation), Lukin Vladislav, Kuz'mina Vera (teacher), Yakunina Tatiana, and Khabarov Denis.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**BIRTHDAY BOY**

Happy birthday greetings to a special celebrant, our "prince" Wiltun John Lizama Cabrera, who is celebrating his seventh birthday today, July 16, 2008. Greetings come from your mommy, daddy, your sisters Leyanna, Leilani, Leina and your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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STADT HAMBURG	019E	7/5 SAT	7/3 THU	6/23 MON	7/10 THU	6/24TUE	6/28 SAT	7/11 FRI	7/7 MON	7/6 SUN	7/1 TUE	6/22 SUN	7/7 MON	7/11 FRI	7/12 SAT
MELL SENOKO	007E	7/12 SAT	7/10 THU	6/30 MON	7/17 THU	7/1 TUE	7/5 SAT	7/18 FRI	7/14 MON	7/13 SUN	7/8 TUE	6/29 SUN	7/14 MON	7/18 FRI	7/19 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	012E	7/19 SAT	7/17 THU	7/7 MON	7/24 THU	7/8 TUE	7/12 SAT	7/25 FRI	7/21 MON	7/20 SUN	7/15 TUE	7/6 SUN	7/21 MON	7/25 FRI	7/19 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	020E	7/26 SAT	7/24 THU	7/24 THU	7/31 THU	7/15 TUE	7/19 SAT	8/1 FRI	7/28 MON	7/27 SUN	7/22 TUE	7/13 SUN	7/28 MON	8/1 FRI	8/2 SAT
MELL SENOKO	008E	8/2 SAT	7/31 THU	7/31 THU	8/7 THU	7/22 TUE	7/26 SAT	8/8 FRI	8/4 MON	8/3 SUN	7/29 TUE	7/20 SUN	8/4 MON	8/8 FRI	8/9 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	013E	8/9 SAT	8/7 THU	8/7 THU	8/14 THU	7/29 TUE	8/2 SAT	8/15 FRI	8/11 MON	8/10 SUN	8/5 TUE	7/27 SUN	8/18 MON	8/15 FRI	8/16 SAT

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA	ETD	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA							
		Guam		Saipn	Yap	Koror	GenSan	Davao	Cebu	Hongkong	Kaoshiung	Busan	Kobe	Manila	Singapore
STADT HAMBURG	019E	7/18 FRI	7/19 SAT	7/19 SAT	7/22 TUE	7/23 WED	7/25 FRI	7/26 SAT	7/26 SAT	8/1 FRI	8/2 SAT	8/7 THU	8/5 TUE	8/3 SUN	8/6 WED
MELL SENOKO	007E	7/25 FRI	7/26 SAT	7/26 SAT	SKIP	7/30 WED	8/1 FRI	8/2 SAT	8/5 TUE	8/8 FRI	8/9 SAT	8/14 THU	8/12 TUE	8/10 SUN	8/13 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	012E	8/1 FRI	8/2 SAT	8/2 SAT	8/5 TUE	8/6 WED	8/8 FRI	8/9 SAT	7/22 TUE	8/15 FRI	8/16 SAT	8/21 THU	8/19 TUE	8/17 SUN	8/20 WED
STADT HAMBURG	020E	8/8 FRI	8/9 SAT	8/9 SAT	SKIP	8/13 WED	8/15 FRI	8/16 SAT	8/19 TUE	8/22 FRI	8/23 SAT	8/28 THU	8/26 TUE	8/24 SUN	8/27 WED
MELL SENOKO	008E	8/15 FRI	8/16 SAT	8/16 SAT	SKIP	8/20 WED	8/22 FRI	8/16 SAT	8/23 SAT	8/22 FRI	8/30 SAT	9/4 THU	9/2 TUE	8/24 SUN	9/3 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	013E	8/22 FRI	8/23 SAT	8/23 SAT	SKIP	8/27 WED	8/29 FRI	8/23 SAT	8/30 SAT	8/29 FRI	9/6 SAT	9/11 THU	9/2 TUE	8/31 SUN	9/10 WED

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DOI to mark Battle of Guam, CNMI

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On Tuesday, July 15, 2008 (Wednesday on Saipan), Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, Guam Gov. Felix Camacho, Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo and CNMI Resident Representative Pedro A. Tenorio will commemorate the historic World War II battles that liberated Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Today's wreath laying ceremony marking the 64th anniversary of the Liberation of Guam and the Battle for the Northern Marianas will be held at the Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknowns, beginning at 8:30am. The ceremony is a tribute to the sailors, soldiers, Marines, airmen and Coast Guardsmen who fought in the War in the Pacific and the people of Guam who endured wartime occupation.

Guam Liberation Day marks the historic July 21, 1944 landing of U.S. troops on Guam to begin the recapture of the island from entrenched Japanese forces—a milestone in the island's history and a significant U.S. military campaign that had earlier secured Saipan and Tinian in the Northern Marianas.

U.S. forces suffered 1,700 killed and 6,000 wounded in retaking Guam. More than 18,000

Japanese were killed in the battle. About 700 Chamorros lost their lives during the war years. (DOI)

OPA denies appeal in Tinian's gym project

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor has denied a procurement appeal filed by a failed bidder for the Tinian gymnasium project.

OPA, in a decision issued yesterday, said the CNMI Divi-

sion of Procurement and Supply was correct in declining the protest by Resources Management International Corporation over the rejection of its bid for the hardening and retrofitting of the Tinian gymnasium.

RMIC, co-owned by Joaquin Manglona, Perry Inos, and Antonio Rasiang, submitted the lowest bid, \$95,488, for the project. The company's bid was about \$60,000 less than the next two lowest bids.

However, RMIC's bid was rejected after the Procurement and Supply director found that RMIC "does not have a satisfactory performance record or the necessary organization, necessary, experience and skills to successfully perform the contract." The director's conclusion was based on the evaluations of the Department of Public Safety's buildings on Rota and Tinian, which are two of the construction projects RMIC recently completed.

RMIC protested the bid rejection, saying the determination about the company's non-responsibility was unsubstantiated. When the Procurement Division denied the protest, RMIC filed the appeal with OPA. The company asked OPA to reverse the Procurement Division's de-

See OPA on Next Page

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Proposed Amendment of the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezones)

We ask your comments on proposed amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps, sheets 13 (Lower Navy Hill), 26 (As Lito), and 27 (San Antonio).

A public hearing will be held:

Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 Time: 6:00 pm
Place: DPL Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

The proposed map changes may be viewed at

Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan
Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page)

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve any or all of the changes to the Official Zoning Maps.

Comments on the proposals may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and must be received at the Zoning Office by 4:30 pm, Wednesday, August 20, 2008. Send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007.

/s/ Henry S. Hofsneider, Chair.



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Barbie Fajardo
Melinda Takai

FLASHBACK

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 16, 1999

CPA okays extension of incentives to Northwest

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board yesterday gave a conditional approval to the request of Northwest Airlines to extend its airline incentive program by seven months, hoping the company would bring in more tourists into the Northern Marianas. However, failure to meet the three conditions by January 2000 means that the incentive program would still end on Feb. 29, 2000.

Is he a cause-oriented rebel or a plain criminal?

"I'm not a bad person. I'm only angry because I'm being treated like an animal. My life is a nightmare," thus said convicted hostage-taker William C. Sablan, in his attempt to soften the judge's heart and appeal for a reduced sentence. His lawyer Bruce Berlin went on to describe Sablan as a "cause-oriented protester," who tried to fight for a humane jail condition.

AGO slammed for delay in Koblerville housing project

The Senate yesterday lashed out at the Attorney General's Office for allegedly holding up approval on the contract of the Koblerville expansion project that has been awarded to Telesource more than three months ago. A resolution offered by Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez is asking the AGO and the Office of Procurement and Supply to hasten review of the agreement with the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation on the \$7 million project.

July 16, 2001

Arrivals slump 7.7 percent

Tourist arrivals in the Northern Marianas slumped 7.7 percent to 40,663 visitors last month from June 2000's 44,037, government reports disclosed. Tourism officials explained the number of visitors to the islands was pulled down by the suspension of direct flights between Taiwan and Saipan.

EPA backs call against land crab consumption

Toxicologists detected the highest levels of PCB in at least three crab samples taken from the village's Homestead 2 Beach Park site and Lower Base Cemetery area. But a final report prepared by the EPA has labeled these results as low. The experts surveyed 100 Tanapag land crabs for PCB December last year as part of cleanup efforts.

Companies take landfill bidding protest to court

The joint venture of Western Equipment, Inc. and DRC Pacific, Inc. said yesterday it has filed a separate complaint before the court in connection with the multi-million dollar Marpi Solid Waste Facility. The joint venture last week filed a lawsuit against four government officials, in protest of what it claimed was an unfair bidding process for the Saipan prison contract.

July 16, 2002

Nevada: We don't want your PCB

The PCBs extracted from the soil in Tanapag are due to arrive in Nevada today for disposal but Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn is opposing the move and has vowed to block its entry into the Silver State. Although he sympathizes with Guinn, Gov. Juan N. Babauta said he will also oppose any move to bring these PCBs back into the Commonwealth and vowed to personally go down to the Saipan dock to block its return.

"Safeguards in place for use of treated soil as dump cover"

The Division of Environmental Quality confirmed that it allowed the Department of Public Works to use treated soil from the PCB treatment site in Tanapag as daily cover for the Puerto Rico dumpsite, but the agency clarified it also imposed conditions to protect the Saipan Lagoon from possible contamination. DEQ director John I. Castro Jr. stressed this, even as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released an opinion saying that treated soil is suitable as daily cover for the garbage site.

Carolinian language endangered

The Carolinian language can now be considered endangered, thus a standardized spelling procedure is necessary to revitalize the use of the local language, the Chamorro/Carolinian Language Policy Commission said. Commission Executive Director Tony Mareham explained that the complete implementation of the Standard Carolinian Language Orthography will set the proper procedure on spelling that would set the standard for the entire CNMI.

Alien worker groups back visa waiver program

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two associations of alien workers strongly support the "visa waiver program" for visitors from Russia, China, and Korea to save the CNMI's ailing tourism industry.

Dekada Movement and Multi-Sectoral Overseas Filipino Workers Movement Inc. (MOVER) have expressed support for the waiver in letters to the Department of Homeland Security and Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Dekada Movement president Bonifacio Sagana, Dekada secretary Hector T. Sevilla, and MOVER president Ernesto M. Maicle issued their positions on the waiver issue after a meeting with Chamber executive director Kyle L. Calabrese and Duty Free Shoppers Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce last Wednesday at the Café at the Park in Garapan.

Sagana, Sevilla, and activist Malou Berueco told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Aldan-Pierce and Calabrese arranged the meeting during which the two asked them to support the visa waiver program.

Sagana, Sevilla, and Berueco said they agreed that the program is vital to the CNMI's economic survival.

They believe that the tourism industry's decline will have a domino effect on the economy,

thus affecting the jobs of alien workers as well.

The three said they want to send a message to the community that their members are not only after improved immigration status but are also concerned with the local economy.

Sagana and Sevilla, in their letter to Chamber president Jim Arenovski, said that eliminat-

100 new chairs donated to NMC

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Proponents of the planned University of Loyola in the CNMI have donated 100 new chairs worth \$3,500 to the Northern Marianas College for their classroom use.

The all-black chairs have tablets for writing and are made up of plastic and metal.

Dr. Johnny Fong, chairman of the University of Loyola's board of directors, turned over the chairs Tuesday morning at NMC.

"Dr. Fong was the one who approached the Northern Marianas College and asked how he could help the college. We needed more chairs, so he immediately offered to donate the chairs," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

"Our donation is part of the University of Loyola's vision of sharing resources with NMC and the community in advancing education in the Commonwealth," Dr. Fong

ing the visa waiver program for Russia, China, and Korea will decrease the CNMI's tourism base.

"Thousands of guest workers and their families will be affected if they lose their jobs if this program is eliminated," the two Dekada officials said.

Dekada consists of 3,000 guest workers that include Filipinos, Bangladeshis, Chinese,

said in a statement.

"We hope that the UOL-NMC partnership will go a long way in preparing the leaders of tomorrow and in making the CNMI an education hub in the Pacific," he added.

The University of Loyola plans to offer a four-year Doctor of Medicine degree, a Doctor of Pharmacy degree and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree, as well as a two-year Associate of Science Degree in Nursing.

It also seeks to offer review courses for those taking the National Council Licensure Examination, the United States Medical Licensure Examination, the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination, the United States Medical Technology Examination, and the United States National Physical Therapy Examination.

"I want to express my sincere appreciation to this donation and we really look forward to our partnership," said Dr. Fernandez.

sible or not. He added that the director's decision appeared to be reasonable and based on a fair evaluation of RMIC's previous work.

"It is well settled that contracting officers have wide discretion in determining responsibility. Determining a proposed contractor's ability

to perform a contract requires a projection and is essentially an exercise of business judgment. Although that judgment must be based on fact, reached in good faith, and within CNMI Procurement Regulations and the law, it must be left largely in the hands of the director," Sablan said.

and Nepalese.

MOVER president Maicle, in his letter to Homeland Security, said that, without tourist markets, the economy of the Marianas would break down.

He said their group believes that allowing visa waivers for

visitors from Korea, China, and Russia would attract more tourists from these countries and improve the economy.

MOVER, a Filipino workers association established in 2001, is known for its campaign for a clean environment.

Federal officials from the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Insular Affairs, U.S.

Citizenship and Immigration Service, and Customs Border Protection, among other agencies, are currently on the island for a fact-finding mission.

They are holding meetings with government, business, and community leaders in line with the drafting of regulations implementing the federalization law.

State Board of Education PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PSS RFP# 08-023



The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting for competitive sealed proposals for the **Hardening of the Rota High School Covered Walkway**, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. The Scope of Work and plans are available at the PSS Procurement and Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. A charge of \$10.00 will be assessed for the plan. FEMA and the NMHC has obligated portion of the project cost.

This Procurement is made in accordance with the PSS Procurement Regulation (PSSPR) Section 3-106, entitled "Competitive Sealed Proposals."

All interested companies are required to attend the pre-proposal conference and site visit on July 30, 2008 at 2:00 p.m., local time at the Rota High School in Songsong Village, Rota.

All responses to this Request For Proposal must take into account all taxes that the CNMI Government will assess if the contract is awarded, including the CNMI Excise Tax. All proposals must be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP# 08-023" containing the original plus five (5) copies, and be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office Situated on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 2:00 p.m., local time on August 15, 2008. No Bid Proposal submissions will be accepted after the closing under any circumstances.

All vendors are requested to submit with their proposal a copy of their CNMI Business License and other responsibility documents in compliance with PSSPR Section 3-301. The selection of the contractor(s) will be based on the following criteria: **Qualification** (20 points); **Performance** (20 points); **Price** (20 points); **Time Table** (20 points) and **Warranty** (20 points) a total of 100 points.

In accordance with PSSPR Section 4-401, bid security of fifteen percent (15%) must accompany the proposal. This security may be certified check, cashier's check or a bid bond.

Inquiries to this proposal announcement may be directed to the PSS Acting Procurement & Supply Officer at telephone number 237-3062. Technical questions, however, must be in writing and must be addressed to W. David Loan, PSS CIP Coordinator. Questions can be either faxed to (670) 6643715 or e-mailed to loan@pss.cnmi.mp.

The Public School System reserves the right to award a single or multiple awards, or to reject any or all bids if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System. All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/s/ Craig H. Garrison
Acting, Commissioner of Education

/s/ Juan D. Babauta
PSS Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer



SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHING POSITION

- MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH
- BA/BS IS REQUIRED

Please submit application with transcripts to the school office or by email to dalejsis@yahoo.com

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Appearing for Petitioner
MARIA S. MONTON

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF
PABLO LAGUADIA SOLOMON and
BRIGIDA BAMBALAN SOLOMON,
) NOTICE OF
Deceased.) HEARING
)

TO: INTERESTED CLAIMANTS AND CREDITORS:
Notice is hereby given that MARIA S. MONTON, of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has filed a petition in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to be appointed as Administrator of the Estate of Pablo Laguadia Solomon and Brigida Bambalan Solomon, deceased, and to determine the heirs of the decedent. The Attorney of record is Danilo T. Aguilar, Esq., P.O. Box 505301, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on the petition is set for July 29, 2008, at the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at 1:30 p.m. All interested persons should appear at this hearing.

All persons having any claims against the estate, or against the deceased should file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
/s/ Clerk of Court
By: /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
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FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Plaintiff
LAURO T. MANACOP

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LAURO T. MANACOP Plaintiff,) Civil Case No. 07-0440
v.)
MANAUR RAHMAN and)
MOHAMMAD KHAN,) SUMMONS BY
Defendant.) PUBLICATION

FOR THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: MOHAMMAD KHAN

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complainant, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within THIRTY (30) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, First Floor, San Jose Court Building, Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose, Saipan MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment of default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

By order of this Court.

/s/ Clerk of Courts
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DATED this 20th day of May, 2008.

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The mullahs say maybe

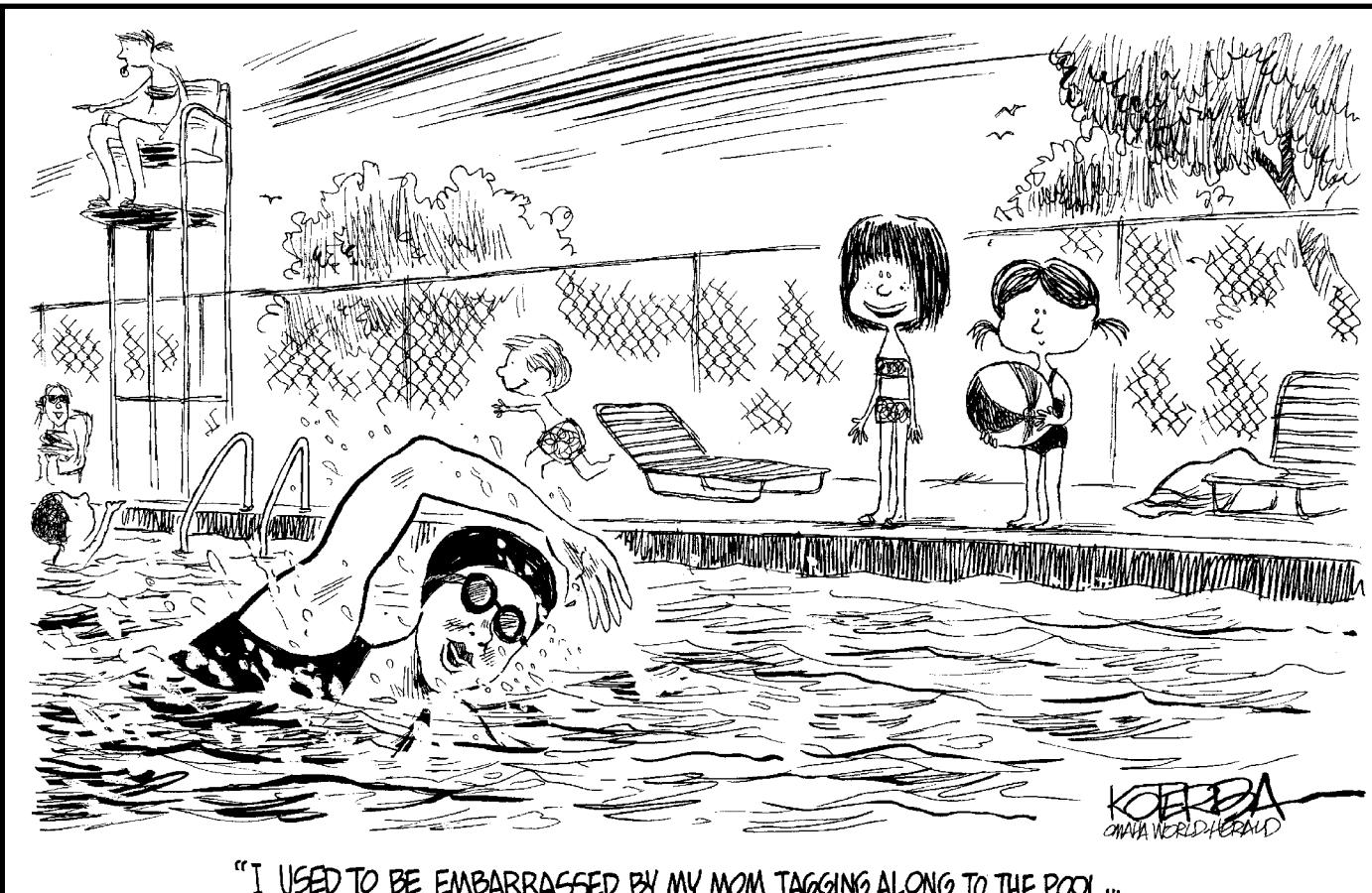
What should be made of the latest mix of messages from Iran? Just over a week ago, the Iranian foreign minister responded ambiguously to a new international proposal for negotiations over Tehran's nuclear program, saying the regime was open to talks but making no mention of a condition that it freeze the program's expansion. On Wednesday and Thursday, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps made a show of firing off missiles from its arsenal, including one that it claims could reach Israel. Then on Friday, the state news agency reported that the government's top nuclear negotiator would meet in Geneva next weekend with the European Union's foreign policy chief to discuss the freeze proposal and Iran's response.

Was Iran carefully setting the stage for beginning negotiations? Or was the Guard—the sponsor of Iran's military and terrorist activity in Iraq, Lebanon and Gaza, and the overseer of the nuclear work—trying to undermine a possible attempt by moderates to compromise with the West? There's at least some debate within the regime about whether continued defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions ordering a suspension of uranium enrichment is worth the growing bite of sanctions. Former Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, an adviser to Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has called publicly for acceptance of the talks proposal, while spokesmen of the government of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad have dismissed the possibility of halting nuclear work.

While we don't have a definitive answer for these questions, one conclusion seems pretty clear: If Tehran rejects the latest proposal, it will show that those pushing for confrontation with the West are fully in command. That's because the latest proposal of the five Security Council members and Germany once again has lowered the bar for Iranian cooperation. Previously, the regime was required to stop uranium enrichment during negotiations on swapping the nuclear program for political and economic concessions. Now, in addition to sweetening the concession package, the six countries ask only that Tehran stop adding centrifuges to its enrichment plant, in exchange for a promise by the Security Council not to apply more sanctions. In short, Iran would be able to continue using the more than 3,000 centrifuges it already has installed to increase its stockpile of enriched uranium without fear of further sanctions, merely by agreeing to preliminary talks.

In theory the "freeze" for "freeze" arrangement would be limited to six weeks; in practice it's not hard to imagine Iran finding ways to extend it far longer. This would serve the purpose of allowing the regime to stall further action against it while continuing to advance toward building a nuclear bomb. In the past, that strategy has been the common denominator on which Iranian moderates and hardliners could agree. So Iranian rejection of the deal would be a clear signal that three years of U.S.-backed diplomacy was dead—and acceptance might merely mean a slower and more excruciating demise.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



"I USED TO BE EMBARRASSED BY MY MOM TAGGING ALONG TO THE POOL...
BUT THAT WAS BEFORE DARA TORRES MADE IT BACK TO THE OLYMPICS."

Rotapreneur Profile

Charlie Atalig's CNMIspace.com!

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

CNMIspace.com is the world's newest social networking website!

For those who don't know, a social networking site provides a virtual community in which people with a shared interest may communicate. That shared interest or commonality can be anything from a love of books (shelfari.com), music (Last.fm), culture (MiGente.com), religion (Muslim.com), business (linkedin.com), travel (travbuddy.com), movies (flixster.com), national origin (Chirundu.com—*The place for homesick Africans*), college affiliation, dating, and just about everything else. Some of



CNMIspace.com
Take Pride In Your Roots

Charlie Atalig, founder of CNMIspace.com.

the more popular social networking sites are Classmates, Black-Planet, Facebook, and MySpace.

Networking sites allow people to find, connect with, nurture and grow what can become a very powerful, easily reachable list of contacts. It has the potential to publicize events, find jobs, launch careers, locate lost loved ones—just about anything that any circle of influence can do, but aided by technology, provides a global reach and the potential to reach millions in an instant and efficient way.

To illustrate just how powerful this whole social networking thing can be, CNMIspace itself was launched just four days

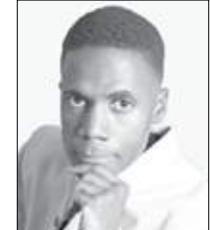
THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.



before this interview, and with just one person sharing it with her network, attracted over 500 members! Let me repeat. Even while the developer of the site was still setting it up, over FIVE HUNDRED people rushed online to join the community! The world now has an online spot for people who call CNMI home—whether locally "grown" or transplanted!

So, who can we thank for this unique addition to the world's websites and gift to the CNMI? A venture capital firm? Google? Bill Gates? The Department of the Interior? No. We can think Charlie Atalig, a full-time student from Rota with a little time on his hands and vision in his heart.

Charlie Ogo Atalig was born on Guam, raised in Songsong Village on Rota and is currently going to school in San Diego, California.

After graduating from Rota High School as Valedictorian for the Class of 2006, Charlie attended the University of Guam for a year, then transferred to Grossmont College in 2007, where he is majoring in Accounting. He will be transferring to the University of San Diego in Spring 2009.

I spoke with Charlie by phone and email few days ago.

So, Charlie, why San Diego?

Charlie: Well, I'm here 'cause I wanted to go to a stateside school. It's always been a dream of mine to graduate from a large, private university.

I'm here on the CNMI Honors Scholarship (cnmischolarship.com), and also the Robert C. Byrd Scholarship. I recently got awarded a Barnes & Noble Textbook scholarship. I'm going to a community college right now. The cost of living here and tuition are really high, but this fall, I'll be considered a resident, so the tuition costs will be lower.

What prompted you to start CNMIspace.com?

Charlie: Recently a good friend of mine who I met in an Economics class told me to keep a notebook of all my business ideas while we

See ROTAPRENEUR on Page 13

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

China on display III: Shanghai's Pudong and the Bund

The Beijing 2008 Olympic Games come as an apex in China's intent to be seen as a serious and active player in global development since the early 1990s. The Pudong Development Area is an instructive specimen of a development methodology that combined centralized planning and private capital formation for a delineated and designated geographical area, but with national implications, regional influence, and worldwide impact.

China's Premier Li Peng in 1990 officially launched the development of the "Pudong New Area" (*Pudong Xinchu*) in the most advanced economic center of the country - the Shanghai municipality. The plan, grand in conception and bold in design, was to be the catalyst in revitalizing Shanghai proper after the benign neglect it got from China's planners, and in anchoring the future development of the entire Yangtze River basin spanning Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui and Jiangxi provinces. Discerning its successes and failures would be worth the while of any area determined to take hold of its own economic development.

Seventy years earlier, Sun Yat-sen declared a program of developing the "Great Port of Pudong." This indicates a process of urban planning and modernization that began and continues to place Shanghai and its environs in the forefront of mass urbanization in China. Acceleration of that development in the 90s anticipated an unprecedented capital formation and intense international investment that was fueled by cheap labor, sustained government protection, and the presence and potential of an immense market.

The Bund in Puxi on the westside of the Huangpu River, in a sense, anticipated and prepared Pudong, the eastside. With the opening of China following its defeat in the Opium War, various western nations including Britain, France, the States, Russia, Germany, Japan, The Netherlands and Belgium opened up trading houses, as well as the consulates of Russia and Britain, a newspaper, the exclusive male only Shanghai and the Masonic Clubs. The "big four" (Barclay's, Lloyd's, HSBC, and the Royal Bank of Scotland) pretty much regulated finances until Chairman Mao sent Generalissimo Chiang and the Kuomintang Government across the Strait of Taiwan.

The city of Chou En Lai was never really a straitjacket of doctrinaire socialist economics. Temporarily occupied by government agencies after the Civil War concluded in 1949, the Bund would

revert back to the private sector in the 70s and 80s and reclaim its role as the financial hub of East Asia. Now, the Bund is the primary tourist attraction for the city, its famous promenade facing the new skyline that has arisen from the marshland of Pudong, and has turned into a spectators' spectacle when its skyscrapers' lights turn on each evening on cue.

Admittedly, the sidewalks of Pudong Ave. and Pudong Rd. have seen better days. Posters in the city bearing the Beijing 2008 sign, also have underneath it a second announcement: **Shanghai 2010**. The Bund's old historic structures are presently undergoing a massive facelift, and its traffic flows getting epic re-orchestration, with bridges and tunnels, highways and subways, and the revived old river ferries restoring a lively and well patronized public transport access between the Bund and Pudong. While it has played second fiddle to the gargantuan construction efforts in Beijing until this year, Shanghai will take center stage after the Beijing Olympics award its last medals of achievements and recognition. Hosting a World Expo is less than a couple of years away.

At the intersection of Minyao and Jinhai Rds. is what seems to be a replica of Paris' Arc d'Triomphe fronting an upscale housing development. Pudong has definitely become home to China's nouveau riche. It is also home to the managerial staff of the high-tech and innovative industries of the multi-national corporations that have moved their operations into the area. Numbering among these are such stock exchange index habitués as diverse as General Motors to Kia, Sony to Sharp, GE to Dupont, Honeywell to Omron, i.e., anyone who is anyone in the Fortune 500 has a foothold in the area. DHL just announced the construction of their East Asia operation center at Pudong.

Many cities around the world developed enclaves for their old money. There is Shoto in Tokyo, Georgetown in DC, Grosse Point in Detroit, Pacific Heights in San Francisco, the Lakeshore in Chicago, Highland Park in Dallas, Park Avenue in New York and Puk Fu Lum in Hong Kong.

Rio, Taegu and Oslo, Mumbai, Dubai and Shanghai have all created their rich ghettos but to me, the affluence in Pudong is exemplified in a lounge bathroom I recently used. One walks into the toilet where the seat cover automatically lifts up, the seat contact surface kept at a comfortable temperature, and a lit digital panel on

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



the side controls a bidet that would not displease the Le Parisienne, and definitely, not Madam Carla Bruni Sarkozy. I over indulged, if not became a wee bit kinky, as I allowed the oscillating water perform its cleansing job and the warm air blower keep dry and pristine the remaining virgin orifice in my anatomy. Now, that really spells r-e-l-i-e-f!

Research and development in bioengineering and scientific agriculture, primary and secondary industries in technology parks, tertiary and ancillary manufacturing operations are all to be found in Pudong, not to mention the outlaying industrial parks in Shejiang and Jiangsu provinces. These are where the machine shops and factories, with their management overlay, all got transported out of the small towns of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan so that American consumers get cheaper goods from the inner city Wal-Mart and the suburban Price Costcos.

The Wrigleys of Chicago evidently found a niche as a young smiling couple with Guilin's green tropical forest and karst rock formation on the background extol the virtues of chewing sugar and double mint layered rubber gums. McDo's double arches and Starbucks smiling mermaid are not to be outdone as they lay in the shadows of the towering new Shanghai World Financial Center (building whose penthouse looks like the handle of a tote bag), right by the Huangpu River bend, just off the Pudong end of the Bund Sight Seeing Tunnel.

The World Expo mascot for 2010 is the *Haibao*, a people-oriented symbol out of the calligraphic character of 'human.' Perry Tenorio's MVA group, I am sure, are smart enough to know that if we were to get a slice of the Chinese tourist market, it would come from the Shanghai Metro Area. Thus, this interest in this area this summer's China on display.

State of the Judiciary Address

Editor's Note: The following is the State of the Judiciary Address delivered by CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel Demapan to a joint session of the 16th Commonwealth Legislature in the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill July 11, 2008. It is being published as a series due to its length.

Last of a three-part series

Although, we would at times love to speed up the processing of cases in the system so that we could get a higher and faster disposition rate, the justice system by nature is a slow one. It is by nature slow so that errors, if they occur, occur at a low and insignificant rate. What is most troubling to any jurist or even to you is to have someone jailed or incarcerated, or to have one's property transferred to a wrong party because of sloppy or inadequate research. My friends, I stand here to reassure you that in your judiciary, we will spend all the time necessary to avoid such grave errors. And, trust me, we will do it even if it takes time to keep our standards high and render justice.

I turn now to the Supreme Court, your highest court in the Commonwealth. Its primary responsibility is to review and rule on appeals from the Superior Court or on certified questions coming from local officials or the Federal Court. As you may know, the Supreme Court does not conduct any fact finding trials; rather our role is to determine if legal or procedural errors were committed by the trial judges in our Superior Court. Your Supreme Court is sometimes referred to as the court of last resort and is the only appellate court in the Commonwealth. We do not have an intermediate appellate court. Since it is the only appellate court in the Commonwealth, and our Constitution does not provide for a discretionary review of cases in the Court of last resort, we must entertain all cases filed before us.

As provided in my annual report, the Supreme Court entertained a total of 34 filings, and disposed 37 cases, excluding motions, last year. Criminal and civil appeals make up the majority of the court's case load at 68 percent.

For the Superior Court, we saw the filing of 5,630 total cases. Of these, a total of 3,376 cases were disposed of. The Probation Office is also quite busy. A total of 453 cases were referred to the probation office last year. As of now, the Probation Office services 3,100 individuals. This is a substantial number, bearing in mind that

there are only 11 officers in the office, and that they also monitor all three major municipalities in the Commonwealth. Aside from their workloads, they give courtesy assistance by monitoring probationers from other jurisdictions. This officer to client ratio is excessively low when compared to the national average. It is no wonder why the recidivism rate is also high.

So if you look at these statistics, you will realize that your justices, judges, and staff are indeed busy at work.

I am now going to address the perennial issue of budget allocation for the judiciary. In a financial crisis like the one we are now in, we all know that fiscal conservatism is the key to survival. We also know that no matter which governmental branch you are in, the one constant assumption is that all three branches are essential in our democratic system of government. Just as I cannot argue that we take the resources from the legislature to fund the judiciary, the opposite of that argument would also not hold water. We have to recognize that we are a three branch government, and although we are separate and equal, the need for harmony and cooperation is essential to achieve what our people expect us to do. Our motto in the judiciary, and we do it each time we meet to assess our budgetary needs before submission to the legislature, is the following:

"Be conservative. Do not ask more than what we need, and keep in mind that there are other services that our people are expecting to receive, and at the end of the day we have to account for every nickel and dime that the Legislature or the people provides."

This short paragraph I just read to you says a lot. It speaks volumes about our branch of government. It means that even as the judiciary, a branch separate and equal to the two other branches of our government, we still have to be accountable to you and the public in general. After being entrusted by you to ensure that the rule of law is paramount in society, we are resolute in our obedience to just that. Accountability to you is a must for us to keep the trust you have bestowed upon us.

Before I end my presentation today, I would like to make it absolutely clear that the disposition of over 5,664 cases or court matters within our Commonwealth Judiciary last year would not have been possible without the collaboration of the other branches of our government. Our strong partners in the legislative and executive branches, have time and again stepped up to the plate and have assisted in making sure that we have the personnel, facilities, and technology to properly do our work.

By MIGUEL S. DEMAPAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Miguel S. Demapan is the Chief Justice of the CNMI Supreme Court.



Our work would not be possible, without the strong commitment that exists within our court staff. This includes the various department heads, the administrative office of the courts, headed by Mrs. Margarita M. Palacios, now retired, and the current Director of Courts; add to that your legislative fiscal analyst, the Legislative Bureau, and your personal staff and counsel. So it is only fitting that I recognize all these exceptional public servants. They have worked tirelessly to ensure that we are given the resources to do our jobs. All have our respect and all have our gratitude, and I applaud them this morning.

Before I leave you today, allow me to say the following. I am sure everyone in this chamber understands that the beauty of our Commonwealth goes far beyond its beaches, mountains, islands, and its great underwater resources. The Commonwealth's true beauty, however, is in the heart of its people and its unique culture. All of our Commonwealth residents want to prosper; they want to live and contribute to this great Commonwealth, and ladies and gentlemen, we must create a safe environment for this to happen. Our people also want you to protect the judiciary, because it is the last great barrier reef between themselves and the power of government. We, as judges, must also revisit our oaths, which in summary state that we must provide that protection to all of our people fairly and expeditiously every time we take the bench to preside over a case.

I am sure you yourself renew your vow each time you enter this building. So I say as the representative of the judiciary, before we go about the people's business, it is of great importance that we continue working together for the common good, consistent with the great tradition established in our short history. This, ladies and gentlemen, is our shared destiny. This, ladies and gentlemen, is the mandate of the people who placed us in our offices.

Si Yu's Ma'ase and May God Bless this great Commonwealth.

Letters to the Editor

An impending economic crash

The impending disintegration of the U.S. economy, triggered initially by wild oil price speculation, has adversely affected the financial sector, housing and airline industries and other key sectors of a once robust national economy. The domino effect has adversely affected every corner of our country and the entire global village, too.

The CNMI isn't spared of the impending national economic implosion. We can see how it has ruined the livelihood of our people. The significant reduction in consumers' purchasing power has sent every knee buckling for answers, any answer! But there doesn't seem to be any other than soul-searching debate on how to approach realistic resolution of these issues. Let's hope a genius emerges somewhere who could offer answers and solutions to this mess.

The last-minute scramble to allow offshore oil drilling in nearby coasts is an eleventh hour remedy. Even if we burn the midnight oil, the ravages of constantly escalating prices of fossil fuel will hit close to home where we least want it—family pocketbooks!

With a 70-percent reliance on foreign oil, there's less hope up that alley or the notion that we can secure more of it. The news media is replete with analysis that the oil producing countries have become battlegrounds between our troops and the combined insurgency of al-Qaida and Taliban.

This was preceded by oil producing countries nationalizing oil companies that effectively eliminated US oil firms. This is further exacerbated by US policy to funnel billions of dollars to corrupt Central Asian leadership. We neglected the cry of displaced citizen-

ry for help in the reconstruction of their war ravaged economies and the establishment of democratic institutions.

The al-Qaida and Taliban were given the opportunity to fill this vacuum, a vacuum we will never fill and restore. This negligence encouraged and emboldened citizenry to build up anti-US sentiment. This would definitely mushroom into a vicious non-conventional war throughout this century.

Perhaps the one single most unsettling effect of this global phenomenon—other than the reduction of consumers' purchasing power—is the loss of first family homes right here in paradise. Quite a number of them are being auctioned as adversely affected families ponder their next dwelling. This would force many siblings to return to mom's familiar kitchen and living rooms. It would be a crowded condition in the old house, slamming hardship for the old guards who thought they could live happily ever after.

Across the country, fellow citizens look toward our national leadership for answers. Several million of them will lose their only family house if no infusion of funds is given Fannie Mae and Freddy Mac. Coupled by the pile of increases on food, and gasoline, these really don't leave average consumers in any breathing room to plan daily expenses. Imagine the desperate situation of single-family income earners. This isn't any festive environment either but a nightmare to contend with daily. It's one time in our history when cringing becomes a norm.

Imagine the troubling thought of how families who support their

children in colleges and universities abroad are wrestling with this nightmare. The bleak condition will continue heading Deep South before things get any better. It's troubling all around: airlines cutting out routes to stave off the price of fuel, companies cutting staff by the thousands to cut cost or simply trying to avert the impending increase in federal minimum wage. Otherwise, the cost of goods and services would take an upward spiral.

Even in small towns throughout the country, family restaurants that have served their communities well for decades would have to increase traditional dishes of roast beef, potato, salad and iced tea. This monstrosity has permeated into family businesses everywhere and equally compromised their prospects to staying around for several more decades. That would be quite sad, right?

These setbacks are now endemic throughout the global village. If you see a friend scratching his head or cringing as he peeps at his gas gauge, or headed to the farm with the longest frown on his face, turn the other way for it is the same all over this archipelago too. Even the encouragement not to give up when it's hardest turns fatally suspect. But in my mind, there's a faintly lighted candle at the end of the tunnel. I'm headed that way to see if I could fan it into a towering inferno of hope.

John S. DelRosario Jr.
Taotao O`Perlas de Pasifiiiko
Koblerville, Saipan

CUC forum in Kagman

Dearest community members:

Last month on June 17, we held our first community forum on CUC at the Susupe Multi-Purpose Center. It was an excellent first meeting that set reasonable demands for CUC. We also demanded that our leaders take action and discussed ways of pressuring them to do so. At the top of the list, we all agreed a legislative oversight was necessary to investigate CUC and its misdeeds. Why the legislative oversight? Because they have far reaching powers and have the ability to subpoena both individuals and records, something the common person like you and me are unable to do.

We need your support and help with this latest CUC forum, and we are holding it this time at the Kagman Chacha Junior High School this Thursday, July 17, at 6pm. I know it is a bit of a drive, but we really need you to come and show your support! We need to stand united against CUC and hold them accountable for their actions. Our lives depend on it!

What will be discussed? The following:

1. Brief report/presentation on results from first community forum held on June 17.
2. Proposed Aggreko contract with CUC and why it is not in our best interests / better alternatives.

3. Brief report on status of legislative oversight and what it hopes to accomplish.

4. Brief report on CUC's sole source "emergency" contracts and their status.

5. *How to bring your CUC bill down in spite of the 2.6 cent July increase* (You should attend for this!)

I want you to know that there are several naysayers and critics out there who say that holding a forum is a complete waste of time and that it can accomplish nothing. To them I say this: Progress does not happen overnight, and we cannot expect to solve our problems without trying. And we certainly can't wait for our leaders to solve all of our problems! We can and will make a difference if people like you will read this and attend and bring at least two other people with you. A few people alone cannot change things for the better unless there are people willing to stand up and support them. If Mahatma Ghandi did not have the support of his people, a revolution would have never taken place. If Dr. Martin Luther King did not have the support of the American public, the Civil Rights movement would not have had gone anywhere. By no means am I ever trying to compare any of us to such noble leaders who inspired entire nations to greatness. I am simply trying to point out that change will only take place

if you are willing to be a part of that change. We can no longer afford to sit in our dark homes hoping things get better—the time has come where we *must demand it!*

Please join us and put aside whatever you are doing to attend this very important forum. We need solutions, not criticism. Most importantly, we need more advocates for change if we hope to restore accountability and to get the CNMI back on the right track.

Thank you and I hope to see you this Thursday, July 17, at 6pm, Kagman Chacha Junior High School!

Ed Propst
Dandan, Saipan

P.S. If you want transparency, please call or e-mail Rep. Tina Sablan (285-3935 or e-mail tinasablan@gmail.com) and sign the Open Government Act! We need 512 signatures to put this on the ballot as an initiative in November! Let's give the AG's office 5,000 signatures instead to send a strong message to the CNMI that no government branch or entity should be exempt from transparency and openness! An open government will lead to an honest government!

ROTAPRENEUR

From Page 10

were discussing an article he gave me to read. The article was from the *Harvard Business Review* titled "The Blue Ocean Strategy." The Blue Ocean Strategy is the idea to create unknown markets that are not in existence today, so you would have an uncontested market space. I thought about this over and over while running through business ideas and then out of nowhere I remembered the idea I had in high school: a social networking site for the people in CNMI. There's no such website that the people from the CNMI can log onto where everyone would be able to communicate and connect. Next, I had to come up with a name for my website and not just any name it had to be creative yet catchy. I thought about the CNMI and how I was just creating a little MySpace for the CNMI. Then the idea popped in my head CNMIspace, a place for the people who call the CNMI their home.

The Internet is the new frontier for unique business ideas, isn't it?

Charlie: Yes, I know people in China who make money playing *World of Warcraft* and selling their characters, it just takes that implementation of those simple ideas.

What sort of Internet experience did you have before this venture?

Charlie: I had been wanting to start a website like this ever since my senior year in high school. However I didn't know that much about web design, only a few HTML codes which really wouldn't get me anywhere. I literally had the whole concept of the site I wanted and told my older sister, Pauline, about it. She owned and ran a successful personal web site, and so I thought she could work on it for me.

From that point on, I started getting into web design—learning about CSS, Perl, CGI Scripts, and finally PHP Scripts.

With the desire to own a successful business at a young age, and only a couple hundred dollars to spend, I created and ran several websites—from selling digital information on eBay, to running a 99 cents electronic book store (AtaligEbooks.com) which makes a few bucks a month. I resell domain names and hosting through Atalig.com. And, I also designed PacificRedHot.com for my uncle on Rota. Now, it's my very own social networking site CNMIspace.com.

Any role models?

Charlie: My family owns a lot of businesses on Rota. My uncle, for example, owner of Pacific Red Hot, just watching him made me want to start my own business.

What's CNMIspace's business model?

Charlie: CNMIspace will make money mainly through advertising. It will be a great way for businesses to get their name out to the residents of the CNMI as well as family there and abroad. In fact, there are local artists here in San Diego, as well as UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) fighters who are interested in advertising. As we grow, we can also charge a fee for marketing, t-shirts and other promotional items for the site, and even for other companies.

So, how have you been able to grow your membership so quickly right out the gate?

Charlie: Even before I launched the site, I was telling my friends about the idea. I was getting all sorts of constructive criticism and positive feedback. I went to reserve the domain name before someone else ran with the idea. I told my girlfriend about it, while I was setting it up, and she immediately started promoting it to her myspace friends. We got 20 members within that night!

I wish you the best of success, Charlie. I think it's a great idea. Any final words?

Charlie: I'd like to thank a few people. First, I'd like to thank my members for joining and promoting the site. Thanks also to my girlfriend, Jaclyn Michelle Tenorio Cabrera, for being my support and pushing me to go for it. At one point, I was pretty much going to give up on the site, but she pushed me forward. My parents and siblings, and my friend Lucretia Bartinas for her support. Also, thanks to Karen Cabrera, Michelle's sister. She's on Saipan right now, as a matter of fact. She was really promoting the site on her myspace page.

And, I'd like to thank you, Walt. Your 101 Business Ideas article of a few weeks ago [See *Saipan Tribune* May 14, & 21, 2008] really got me thinking and gave me the motivation to start building something concrete.

Note: For more tips on acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

Note: There's a new blog in town! Check out www.blackson-saipan.com

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com

Business

Oil again settles above \$145 a barrel

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil settled above \$145 a barrel for the third time this month, close to where it began on Monday, after a back-and-forth trading session that mimicked last week's wild swings.

Light, sweet crude for August delivery gained 10 cents to settle at \$145.18 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange—just over a dime short of the all-time settlement high. Earlier, the contract dipped as low as \$142.49 and rose as high as \$146.37.

“There's a bit of a tug of war going on,” said Addison Armstrong, director of market research at Tradition Energy in Stamford, Conn. “You've got some people in here trying to buy the dips a little bit ... but we're kind of stuck trading inside of Friday's range,” when prices gyrated by nearly \$6 and set a new trading record of \$147.27.

At the gas pump, prices hit a new U.S. record just a tenth of a penny shy of \$4.11 a gallon, according to auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service

and Wright Express. Retail diesel prices are also at an all-time high, of \$4.824 a gallon.

Monday's oil price swings came as President Bush lifted an executive ban on offshore oil drilling. That alone will not loosen tight global supplies in the short term because a Congressional prohibition remains in place and any new wells would take years to complete.

However, prices might pull back were Congress to end its own ban, said Phil Flynn, analyst at Alaron Trading

Corp. in Chicago.

“It would send a signal to the market that the U.S. is serious about producing oil. Over time, prices would come down,” Flynn said.

The dollar advanced marginally against the euro and yen, but fell against the pound and the Swiss franc. Investors have been buying dollar-denominated crude contracts as a hedge against inflation and a weakening dollar, pushing the price of oil to about double in the past year. When the dollar strengthens, such currency-related buying often unwinds.

“We believe that in light of the dollar reversal, energy bulls could find things rather difficult on the upside, at least during the early part of the week,” Edward Meir, an analyst at MF Global, said in a research note.

Geopolitical concerns continued to support oil prices.

About 2,500 workers in Brazil's Campos Basin, which produces more than 80 percent of Brazil's oil output, began a strike Monday to demand that state-run oil company Petrobras give them an extra day off at the end of each two-week shift on the platforms.



Oil pump jacks work in a field near the Houston Ship Channel Monday, July 14, 2008 in Baytown, Texas. AP

InBev snags Anheuser-Busch, marketing clout

ST. LOUIS (AP)—The King of Beers, the folks who spent lavishly to bring you the Bud Bowl, the Talking Frogs, the Whassup Guys and the Clydesdales, is being swallowed by a Belgian brewer known for its frugality.

But InBev SA has an ambitious plan behind its \$52 billion acquisition of Anheuser-Busch, hoping to tap into the U.S. company's massive marketing power and make the Budweis-

er and Bud Light brands into globally recognized products akin to Coca-Cola or Pepsi.

Leaving marketing untouched, though, will mean cuts elsewhere. InBev expects to wring out \$1.5 billion in annual savings, most of which will come from better managing the supply chain. InBev keeps a sharp eye on costs, forcing managers to justify every cent spent.

Anheuser-Busch Cos. agreed

to the sweetened \$70 per share bid late Sunday to create the world's largest brewer and head off what was shaping up as an acrimonious fight. Swallowing Anheuser-Busch will give InBev, the maker of brands including Stella Artois, Beck's and Bass, half the U.S. beer market and a fifth of those in China and Russia.

Gaining control of an iconic beer brand—Budweiser—to sell into emerging markets such as China and Brazil was a key part of the deal, said InBev Chief Executive Carlos Brito, who will retain his position.

Freddie Mac auction draws plenty of bidders

NEW YORK (AP)—Freddie Mac attracted more bidders Monday for a highly anticipated auction of \$3 billion in short-term securities than it had nearly all year, a day after the federal government provided support for the mortgage giant.

“This was a good auction result,” said independent banking consultant Bert Ely.

There had been fears all weekend about investors shying away from participating in the auction until the government stepped in and pledged to support the struggling mortgage financier.

“With this deal, it shows confidence on the debt side,” Friedman, Billings, Ramsey & Co. analyst Paul Miller said. “It provides confidence the company is not going out of business.”

Shares of Freddie Mac fell 64 cents, or 8.3 percent, to close at \$7.11 in Monday trading amid continued volatility in the stock.

That volatility is due in part to equity investors no longer knowing exactly where their holdings fit in the company's structure, Miller said. With the government providing support

to Freddie Mac, bond holders have gained confidence, but equity holders are only marginally reassured of their holdings in the company, Miller added.

Earlier Monday, Freddie Mac sold \$2 billion in three-month securities as part of its routine, weekly short-term debt auction via the Internet. The bid-to-cover ratio—which measures the number of bids received compared with the number of bids accepted—was 4.16, the highest the ratio has been for three-month securities since Freddie Mac's auction on Oct. 22.

Fannie-Freddie lifeline puts taxpayers on the hook

WASHINGTON (AP)—Now that the federal government has thrown a lifeline to mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, taxpayers could be on the hook for billions more if the crisis of confidence spreads. There were encouraging signs Monday for the rescue plan, but also signs of concern—notably on Wall Street, where shares of the two companies slumped further—that the plan won't be enough. Other banks are already teetering: National City Corp. shares fell nearly 15 percent on rumors of financial trouble, even though it said it was experiencing no unusual depositor or creditor activity. And Washington Mutual Inc.'s shares fell 35 percent, to a paltry \$3.23 amid worries about whether it had enough cash to handle the mortgage market downturn. WaMu said that it did.

Fed adopts plan to curb shady mortgage practices

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Fed approved Monday new rules to crack down on abusive lending practices. The Fed's new plan will curb shady lending practices that have figured prominently in the housing crisis and propelled foreclosures to record highs. Lax lending standards during the heady days of the housing boom ended up burning the riskiest “subprime” borrowers—people with tarnished credit or low incomes—because they got loans they couldn't afford or didn't understand. “Rates of mortgage delinquencies and foreclosures have been increasing rapidly lately, imposing large costs on borrowers, their communities and the national economy,” said Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke. “Although the high rate of delinquency has a number of causes, it seems clear that unfair or deceptive acts and practices by lenders resulted in the extension of many loans, particularly high-cost loans, that were inappropriate for or misled the borrower,” Bernanke added.

Stocks decline as worries about financials persist

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street extended its slump into yet another week Monday as investors worried that even a safety net set up for mortgage financiers Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac won't head off further troubles in the financial markets. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 45.35, or 0.41 percent, to 11,055.19 after spiking nearly 140 points in early trading. Worries over Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac on Friday led to a volatile session in which the Dow dipped below the 11,000 mark for the first time in about two years before paring its losses; the market suffered its fourth straight losing week. Broader stock indicators also dropped Monday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 11.19, or 0.90 percent, to 1,228.30, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 26.21, or 1.17 percent, to 2,212.87.



Nation

Gov't tardy in securing radioactive material

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government is taking too long to secure radioactive materials across the country that could get into terrorists' hands, according to a government report.

Radioactive material used for legitimate purposes in medical equipment and food, for instance, could be used to create an explosive device known as a dirty bomb. Experts believe such an attack would be contained to a small area but could have significant psychological impact and have serious economic consequences because of cleanup problems.

The Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks prompted the government to do a better job of securing nuclear and radiological materials. And nearly seven years later, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission says these materials are much more secure. But congressional investigators say it's not enough.

According to a Government Accountability Office report released Monday, new requirements to ensure that a person purchasing or carrying radioactive materials has a reason to do so is more than three years behind schedule.

Bush lifts ban on offshore oil drilling

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush on Monday lifted an executive ban on offshore oil drilling and challenged Congress to follow suit, aiming to turn the enormous public frustration about gasoline prices into political leverage. Democratic lawmakers rejected Bush's plan as a symbolic stunt.

With gas prices topping \$4.10 a gallon nationally, Bush

made his most assertive move to extend oil exploration, an energy priority of his presidency. By lifting the executive prohibition against coastal drilling, Bush rescinded a White House policy that his own father put in place in 1990.

The move will have no practical effect unless Congress acts, too. Both executive and legislative bans must

Obama to NAACP: Blacks must take responsibility

CINCINNATI (AP)—Democrat Barack Obama insisted Monday that blacks must show greater responsibility for their actions. In remarks prepared for delivery at the annual NAACP convention, the man who could become the first black president said Washington must provide greater education and economic assistance, but that blacks must demand more of themselves.



TV and putting away the video games; attending those parent-teacher conferences, helping our children with their homework and setting a good example."

He added: "I know some say I've been too tough on folks about this responsibility stuff. But I'm not going to stop talking about it. Because I believe that in the end, it doesn't matter how much money we invest in our communities, or how many 10-point plans we propose, or how many government programs we launch—none of it will make any difference if we don't seize more responsibility in our own lives."

"If we're serious about reclaiming that dream, we have to do more in our own lives, our own families and our own communities," Obama said. "That starts with providing the guidance our children need, turning off the

be lifted before offshore exploration can happen.

Bush had called on Congress a month ago to go first, then reversed himself on Monday. He said the country could no longer afford to wait.

"Failure to act is unacceptable. It's unacceptable to me and it's unacceptable to the American people," Bush said in an event held in the Rose Garden.

"Democratic leaders can show that they have finally

heard the frustrations of the American people by matching the action I've taken today, repealing the congressional ban, and passing legislation to facilitate responsible offshore exploration," Bush said.



FIRE DAMAGE

Damage caused by a recent wildfire in Concow, Calif., is seen Monday July 14, 2008. A large wildfire in a national forest spread farther away from the storied Northern California coastal town of Big Sur on Monday but forced residents of another community to stay away from their homes for a third day. Evacuation orders first issued Saturday morning remained in place for more than 200 homes in the rural Cachagua community northeast of Big Sur. The blaze, which already has charred 187 square miles (484 square kilometers) and destroyed 27 homes, was about 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers) from the area, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

Woman with 5 dead spouses 'obsessed by cash'

ALBEMARLE, N.C. (AP)—Jeff Carstensen was spooked when he learned his grandmother planned to buy him a \$100,000 life insurance policy—and name herself the beneficiary.

"She told me that people of our stature have insurance policies on each other," he said. "That way, if something happens to you, you take care of me, and if some-

thing happens to me, I take care of you. It was all too suspicious. So I got out of there any way I could, as soon as I could."

As he and many others who came into Betty Neumar's orbit have learned, bad things tend to happen to the people around her.

The 76-year-old Georgia woman sits in a North Carolina jail, accused of hiring a hit man to kill fourth hus-

band Harold Gentry. Authorities are re-examining the deaths of her first child and four of the five men she married, including Gentry.

No motive has been discussed, but records and interviews with relatives and police officials paint Neumar as a domineering matriarch consumed by money.

Said Al Gentry, who pressed North Carolina authorities for 22 years to reopen their investigation of his brother's death: "You can't trust her. You can't believe a word she says."



Neumar

ACROSS THE NATION

Student grifter admits \$116K fraud in Pa. ID theft

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A 22-year-old woman will probably face six years in prison after admitting Monday that she and her boyfriend pulled off a brazen identity-theft scheme that funded trips, fancy dinners and expensive salon visits. Travel photos show Jocelyn Kirsch and ex-beau Edward Anderton, a onetime Ivy League swimmer, posing in matching red swimsuits by a luxury hotel pool and kissing near the Eiffel Tower. But in court Monday, the petite Kirsch sported a rumpled green prison uniform as she pleaded guilty to aggravated identity theft and other federal crimes. Kirsch and Anderton, 25, acknowledge they stole the identities of friends and neighbors in the Philadelphia area in 2006 and 2007 to net more than \$116,000 in goods and services—and tried to obtain twice that.

IUPUI says sorry to janitor scolded over KKK book

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A janitor whom a university official had accused of racial harassment for reading a historical book about the Ku Klux Klan on his break has gotten an apology—months later—from the school. Charles Bantz, chancellor at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, apologized to Keith John Sampson in a letter dated Friday, saying the school is committed to free expression. Sampson's troubles began last year when a co-worker complained after seeing him reading a book titled "Notre Dame vs. the Klan: How the Fighting Irish Defeated the Ku Klux Klan." Sampson, a 58-year-old white janitor and student majoring in communication studies, said he tried to explain that the book was a historical account. "I have an interest in American history," Sampson

said. "I was trying to educate myself."

Ga. gov: Allow guns in Atlanta airport

ATLANTA (AP)—Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue said Monday that guns should be allowed in public areas of the nation's busiest airport. And he suggested his own wife might want to pack a firearm for long walks between the parking lot and the terminal at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International. "If my wife wanted to carry a gun, if she was going from the parking lot, walking from one of those far parking lots to pick up a grandchild or something like that, I think that's a good idea, yes," he said Monday. Earlier this year, Perdue, a Republican, signed legislation that allows Georgians who have passed criminal background checks to carry concealed weapons onto mass transit, as well as into state parks and restaurants that serve alcohol. The new law took effect July 1.

Neb. cop, family win \$40K over urine-tainted food

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—A police officer and his family have won \$40,000 in their lawsuit against a restaurant that had served them food tainted by an employee's spit and urine. A jury on Friday ruled in favor of Sidney police Officer Keith Andrew, whose two sons, then 4 and 7, were sickened by the food they ate at a KFC/Taco Bell in October 2005. The younger boy became violently ill with gastroenteritis and dehydration, vomited for hours and was forced to spend time in a hospital, the family's lawsuit said. The employee accused of urinating and spitting in the Andrew family's food, Casey Diedrich, pleaded guilty last year to violating the Nebraska Pure Food Act and fined \$100, according to court records.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Storm causes forced landing of RP defense chief's chopper

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A helicopter carrying Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. and five other people was forced to land in a school compound near Manila after it was battered by an approaching storm Monday, officials said. Nobody was hurt in the forced landing of the Huey helicopter in the Marikina district after it was lashed by strong winds and pounding rain that hampered visibility, said Commodore Alex Pama, who was aboard the chopper with Teodoro and four crewmen. Teodoro was flying back to Manila from northern Tarlac province, where he visited troops. Pama said he was shaken by the rough ride as the helicopter descended while trying to steer clear of buildings and power lines.

S. Korea says it will recall ambassador from Japan

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea said Monday it will recall its ambassador from Japan over a rekindled debate about disputed islands between the countries, as the new Seoul government seeks to lift its sagging popularity at home with an appeal to nationalism. Japan announced its intention Monday to recommend in a government teaching manual that students learn about Tokyo's claims to the nearly uninhabitable islets, known as Dokdo in Korean and Takeshima in Japanese, that are currently under South Korean control. The dispute has been a long-standing thorn in relations between the Asian neighbors. South Korean President Lee Myung-bak expressed "his deep disappointment and regret" over the renewed claim, according to spokesman Lee Dong-kwan.

Afghanistan accuses Pakistan of supporting Taliban

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan lashed out at neighboring Pakistan on Monday alleging that its intelligence service and army are behind the bloody Taliban-led insurgency, calling the security forces the "world's biggest producers of terrorism and extremism." The statement will likely strain already difficult relations between the two neighbors, whose shared porous border has become a safe-heaven for Taliban, al-Qaida and other militant groups, whose attacks have killed thousands and are threatening the stability of both countries. In protest of what it called "direct interference in its internal affairs," Afghanistan said it is suspending its participation in three upcoming meetings with Pakistani officials scheduled for the next few weeks.

IAEA board to meet Aug. 1 on India nuclear deal

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—The board of governors for the United Nations' nuclear watchdog agency will meet Aug. 1 to vote on a deal that would allow international monitors to inspect some of India's atomic facilities, a spokeswoman said Monday. Melissa Fleming, spokeswoman for the International Atomic Energy Agency, gave no details in announcing the meeting. But the board is expected to adopt the agreement, a draft of which India has circulated among the 35 nations on the governing board. The board's approval would open the way for India's civilian nuclear program to do business with 45 nations that export nuclear fuel and technology. India, which developed its own nuclear weapons, has been shut out of such deals because it did not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Pakistan nuke scientist wants Musharraf to testify

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A lawyer for Pakistan's disgraced nuclear scientist said Monday he wants President Pervez Musharraf to appear before a court hearing a petition to end his client's four-year detention for nuclear proliferation. The architect of Pakistan's nuclear program, Abdul Qadeer Khan, has been under house arrest since 2004 after he confessed to leaking nuclear technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea. His lawyer, Javed Iqbal Jaffri, has petitioned the High Court in Islamabad to get restrictions on Khan's movement removed.

Migrant workers riot in eastern China

BEIJING (AP)—Hundreds of migrant workers attacked a police station in eastern China after one was allegedly beaten while trying to get a residence permit, highlighting enduring tensions between temporary workers and authorities.

The three days of unrest in coastal Zhejiang province began Thursday when a crowd gathered in front of the Kanmen town police station to protest the treatment of the beaten worker, with some demonstrators throwing rocks at officers, the official Xinhua

News Agency said Monday.

The Hong Kong-based Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy said the crowds burned police cars and motorcycles, demanding the release of the worker who was detained after complaining that police allegedly beat him over a quarrel about his application for a temporary residence permit.

"The government employees told me that I could not be registered without my identification card. I quarreled with them and they hit me on my

head," Xinhua quoted the worker, Zhang Zhongfu, 34, as saying.

Police, however, said the Sichuan resident bumped his head against a wall while drunk.

The unrest underscored abiding tensions over China's tens of millions of migrant workers who have left the poor countryside to look for work in cities. They often settle in urban areas in violation of the nation's strict household registration—or "hukou"—system, which technically bars rural residents

from moving to cities.

The riots came just two weeks after a crowd of 30,000 people in southwest China set fire to a police station over what many believed was an official cover-up of the circumstances surrounding the death of a teenage girl.

Such incidents, often triggered by allegations over corruption and official abuses, have been an embarrassment to the leadership, especially before next month's Beijing Olympics.

Japanese fishermen go on national strike

TOKYO (AP)—Fishermen across Japan went on a massive one-day strike Tuesday to protest skyrocketing fuel prices, the latest blow to the country's foundering fish industry.

The strike was expected to be the biggest ever for Japanese fishermen, involving about 200,000 boats from all the country's major fishing unions. A protest march with thousands of demonstrators was planned for midday in central Tokyo.

The one-day stoppage will probably have only a minor effect on local fish prices, though buyers at markets said prices were higher Monday as demand rose in anticipation of shortages.

The rich variety of marine life pulled from Japan's coastal waters



AP
A fish dealer works at Tsukiji Wholesale Market in Tokyo Tuesday morning, July 15, 2008.

Deadly attack on American base sends worrying signal

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An insurgent raid that penetrated an American outpost in eastern Afghanistan, killing nine soldiers, has deepened doubts about the U.S. military's effort to contain Islamic militants and keep locals on its side.

Moving in darkness before dawn Sunday, some 200 fighters surrounded the newly built base in a remote area near the Pakistan border without being spotted by

the troops inside, said Gen. Mohammad Qasim Jangalbagh, the provincial police chief.

He said people in the adjacent village of Wanat aided the assault. About 20 local families left their homes in anticipation of the raid, while other tribesmen stayed behind "and helped the insurgents during the fight," Jangalbagh said.

The result was the deadliest in-

cident for U.S. forces in Afghanistan since June 2005, when 16 American soldiers were killed as a rocket-propelled grenade shot down their helicopter.

Violence has been increasing in Afghanistan, and many people are questioning whether the Taliban-led insurgency is gaining, not losing, momentum seven years after the hard-line Islamic regime was ousted by a U.S.-led invasion.



OLYMPIC COUNTDOWN

A Chinese worker adds the finishing touches to a building at the Olympic Green in Beijing, China, Monday, July 14, 2008. The Summer Olympics will be held in Beijing on August, 8, 2008.

has long served as the country's staple food source, and the origin of its raw fishy delicacies famous around the world. Japan's fisherman are a source of national pride, and the country has flouted international pressure to stop whaling and adopt tougher environmental standards.

But Japanese are gradually losing their taste for fish, as they eat more meat products and opt for meals that are easier to prepare. Faced with the shift in eating patterns at home, cheaper competition from abroad and stocks depleted by years of over-fishing, Japan's fishermen say they are fighting to survive and cannot bear rising fuel costs without help from the government.

RP bishops to deny communion for pro-choice pols

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A top Roman Catholic bishop in the Philippines on Tuesday backed action to deny Holy Communion to any politician who would support legalization of abortion, ramping up a rancorous debate on family planning.

No major Catholic politicians openly back legalizing abortion in the conservative Catholic country, but many support moves to increase sex education in schools and promote family planning methods that would include contraceptives—which are forbidden by the church.

Angel Lagdameo, president of Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said Archbishop Jesus Dosado was right to order priests in his southern diocese of Ozamiz city to deny communion to Catholic politicians who would "consistently campaign for permissive abortion measures," thus denying them full church rites.

The unprecedented step, which so far covers only Dosado's diocese, comes as the bishops mobilize forces to campaign against birth control proposals pending in the Congress.

Abortion is illegal in the Philippines, where critics accuse President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of contributing to the burgeoning population and crushing poverty by following the church's policy of emphasizing natural family planning methods.

World

Researchers flee melting Arctic ice floe

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian scientists are evacuating a research station built on an Arctic ice floe because global warming has melted the ice to a fraction of its original size, a spokesman said.

The North Pole-35 station, where 21 researchers and two dogs live in huts, will be taken off the floe in the western Arctic Ocean this week instead of in late August as originally planned, said Sergei Balyasnikov of the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute in St. Petersburg.

The research crew landed in early September on the 1.2- by 2.5-mile floe near the Severnaya Zemlya archipelago. During its westward drift of more than 1,550 miles, the floe shrank to just 1,000 by 2,000 feet.

"The evacuation is ahead of schedule because of global warming," Balyasnikov said.

The nuclear-powered icebreaker Arktika will escort the research vessel Mikhail Somov to the station, which is drifting between the Franz Josef Land archipelago and the island of Novaya Zemlya in the western Arctic.

3 plead to charges in bomb plot that changed air travel

LONDON (AP)—In a case that changed the face of air travel, three men charged with a plot to kill trans-Atlantic airline passengers with bombs in soda bottles admitted Monday they intended to cause explosions.

But the men appealed to the jury to believe their story—that they wanted to stage an elaborate publicity stunt at one of London's iconic sites to promote a film, rather than commit mass murder.

The men are charged with a plot to kill hundreds of passengers at the height of the summer vacation season. When police discovered the plot in August 2006, airports around the world immediately changed their security procedures.

Sudan president charged with genocide

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP)—The prosecutor for the International Criminal Court sought an arrest warrant Monday for Sudan's president on charges of waging a campaign of genocide and rape in Darfur, a high-risk strategy that could backfire against the people in the war-torn desert region.

The indictment marked the first time prosecutors at the world's first permanent war

crimes tribunal have issued charges against a sitting head of state, though President Omar al-Bashir was unlikely to face trial any time soon.

Sudan denounced the indictment as a political stunt, saying it would ignore any arrest order and was considering all options, including an unspecified military response. One Sudanese lawmaker said his government could no longer guarantee the

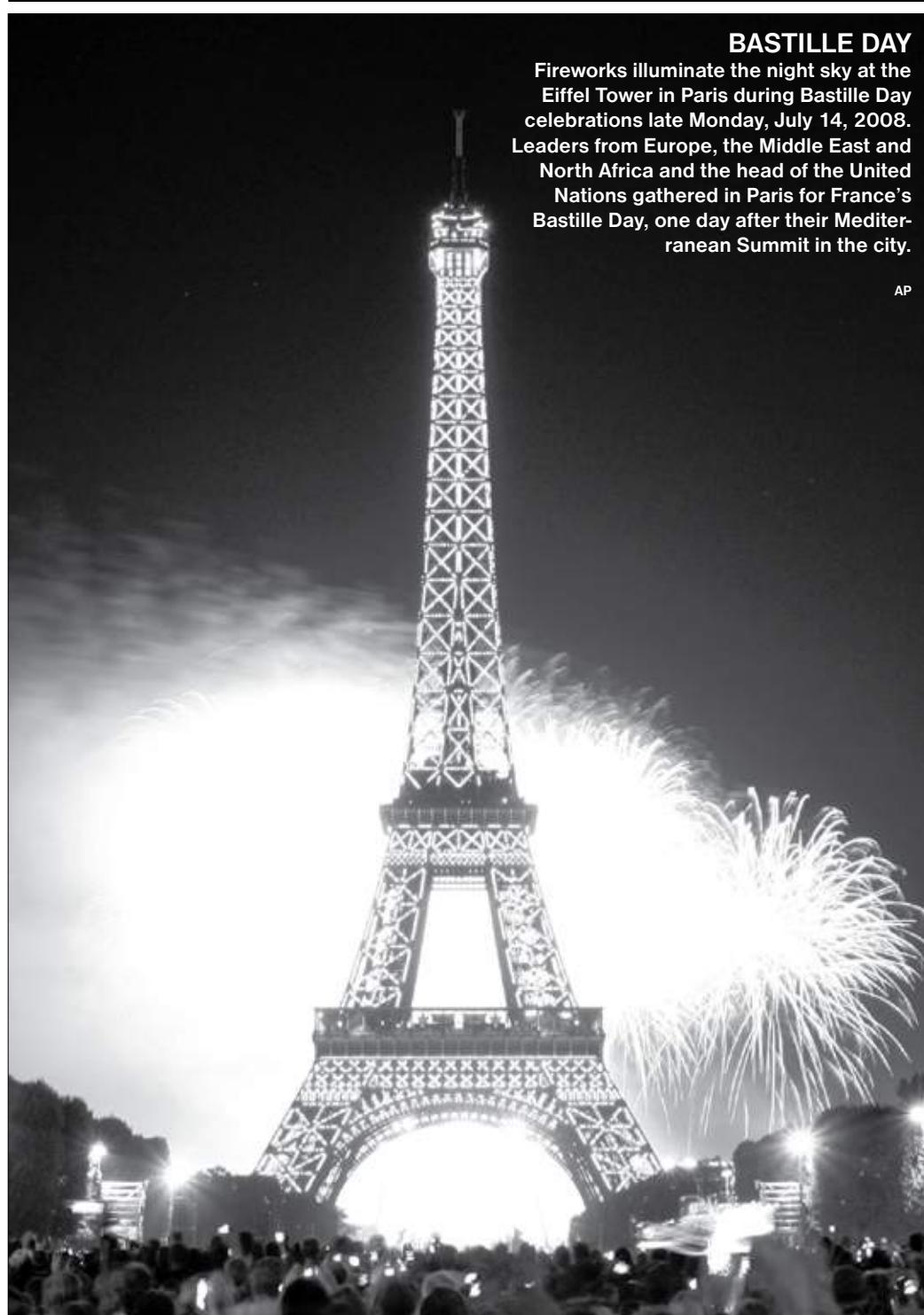
safety of U.N. staff in the troubled region.

Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo filed 10 charges against al-Bashir related to a campaign of extermination of three Darfur tribes that the U.N. says claimed 300,000 lives and driven 2.5 million people from their homes. A three-judge panel was expected to take two to three months to decide whether to issue an arrest warrant.

BASTILLE DAY

BASTILLE DAY
Fireworks illuminate the night sky at the Eiffel Tower in Paris during Bastille Day celebrations late Monday, July 14, 2008. Leaders from Europe, the Middle East and North Africa and the head of the United Nations gathered in Paris for France's Bastille Day, one day after their Mediterranean Summit in the city.

AP



A gentle descent to Baghdad's airport

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

The corkscrew landing is a rite of passage for travelers to Iraq, who feel the pull of gravity as their airplane makes a rapid, spiraling descent to avoid ground fire.

So it was a surprise to one periodic visitor last week when the Royal Jordanian Airlines aircraft from Amman descended into Baghdad International Airport with the same lack of drama as any commuter flight anywhere. No sudden plunge, no tight rotation, no straightening out the flight path just before the runway.

It didn't feel like flying into a war zone anymore.

The absence—on a number of recent civilian flights, at least—of the "corkscrew" maneuver is a measure of how security has improved in Iraq. Back in November 2003, a missile hit a DHL cargo jet just after takeoff. The pilot managed to land safely.

Iraq is still very dangerous. The poisonous legacy of the sectarian war between Sunnis and Shiites could last generations. More people will die in bombings and shootings.

But the debate, for now, is no longer about whether the country is heading toward civil war, or already in one. Rather, it is about whether Iraq has turned a corner toward stability, or is in a quiet spell before another bout of bloodletting.

In other words, can it hold?

The numbers look good (for a country as violent as Iraq): attacks at their lowest level in four years, casualties of Iraqis and U.S. soldiers down, oil production and revenues up.

There is also a new feeling that, while less easy to quantify, is no less important.

Even for a visitor restricted in movements because of security concerns, the improvement is evident in talks with Iraqis.

"It's good" or "It's better" is a common remark. Simple, guarded, but succinct. After five years of war, the people who say it should know. It is hard to find an Iraqi who has not been touched by conflict: a relative or friend killed or kidnapped, a family displaced or destitute.

In nearly a week, the only gunfire heard in a neighborhood near the International Zone—home to Iraqi government offices and the U.S. Embassy—was from a police firing range. Only one explosion. Two months ago, Shiite militants were firing mortars almost nightly into the zone.

The clatter of U.S. military helicopters, and even the roar of U.S. jet fighters, used to be a constant distraction. No longer. One recent night, a helicopter belonging to the Blackwater security group flew in circles over neighborhoods along the Tigris river.

Al-Sabah, a state-owned newspaper, reflects the confidence of a government that has benefited from the U.S. troop surge in 2007, the revolt of Sunni groups against al-Qaida in Iraq and the withdrawal of many Shiite militia groups.

"Their base is weaker than a spider web," reads the caption on a half-page advertisement that boasts of gains against the Iraqi wing of al-Qaida, which means "the base" in Arabic. The phrase is a play on a Koranic verse that remarks on the weakness of the unfaithful.

One war survivor is the 18-story Palestine Hotel, a Baghdad landmark badly damaged when a truck bomb exploded near the front entrance in 2005. The once-gaudy, top-floor bar with a panoramic view is now layered in thick dust and fragments of glass.

A breeze filters through the blown-out windows, a relief from the furnace of a Baghdad summer. Below, a splash of green is visible along the Tigris, a contrast with the steely haze and dusty hue of the city. It's a new park with winding paths, children's slides and swings and two swimming pools under construction; for years, the area was a wasteland patrolled by wild dogs.

The faded lobby of the Palestine is clean, and single rooms that cost \$60 four years ago now go for \$100. The national bowling team trains once a week at a two-lane alley in the complex, where photographs of Iraq's 1980s-era bowling champions are still on display.

Many things are the same in Iraq: the blast walls that crisscross Baghdad in a maze of concrete, the military signs that say "Use of Deadly Force is Authorized," the checkpoints, including 48 alone on the road to Karbala, 60 miles south of the capital.

The same kind of passengers as always flew for 90 minutes from Amman to Baghdad last week. Most were security contractors, one with a T-shirt that said: "And the skulls of my enemies will be piled at my feet as trophies."

But no corkscrew landing.

WORLD BRIEFS

Belgian premier offers resignation amid deadlock

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)—Prime Minister Yves Leterme offered the resignation of his government Monday after it failed to rally around constitutional reforms designed to grant more self-rule to Belgium's Dutch- and French-speaking camps. Vice-premier Didier Reynders said he "regretted the (resignation) put at risk economic policies," including steps to generate moderate budget surpluses to offset higher social costs resulting from the aging of the population. Leterme submitted the resignation to King Albert II, who is expected to ask the government to remain in a caretaker capacity. But there was no word late Monday from Albert's office.

Dubai detains 79 for indecent behavior on beaches

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Westerners were getting too racy on the beaches of this Persian Gulf tourist haven, and a police crackdown on topless sunbathing, nudity and other indecent behavior has resulted in 79 arrests in recent days. Undercover officers are strolling the sand while others stand guard in new watchtowers to enforce the social mores of this Muslim city-state, which is a booming business center that is attracting growing hordes of foreign tourists. Authorities said they began the decency campaign after police detained a British man and a woman who were allegedly having sex on one of Dubai's sprawling beaches earlier this month.

Iran president would welcome direct talks with US

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's hardline president said Monday he would welcome direct talks with the U.S. if both parties are on equal footing, adding such talks could happen "in the near future." President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad did not say whether any definite plans for such bilateral talks were under way. "We will hold talks with the United States if they come to us on equal footing," Ahmadinejad said in a live speech on state TV. Ahmadinejad also said he will attend the next U.N. General Assembly in New York in September in order to defend Iran's rights and propose changes to what he called the "unjust" Western system of administering international organizations.

Campus Life

When new graduates can't find work

By KATHLEEN MEGAN
(C) 2008, THE HARTFORD COURANT

Stacy Lieberman hears the same thing from recent college grads all the time.

"My degree is in psychology; I don't know what to do. My degree is in history; I don't know what to do," said Lieberman, office manager at the Center for Professional Development, which is at the University of Hartford in Connecticut but serves the community.

Lieberman, who has two courses left to earn her bachelor's degree from Central Connecticut State University, says her office often helps these callers, but she also suggests they check back with their own college career-service offices.

As the summer sizzles onward, recent grads, often with staggering loans to pay off, and their parents might feel as if no one quite knows how to handle the situation.

The most recent statistics from MonsterTRAK show that almost half of this year's graduates planned to move home upon graduation. (Last year's survey revealed that only 22 percent of 2007 grads expected to move home for more than six months, but 43 percent have ex-

tended their stay and have yet to leave because of limited financial resources.)

So how should young graduates get going in the job market, and how much should parents help?

First, experts suggest parents talk to grads about why they are home and their goals, and then lay down some rules.

Michael Klein, a Northampton, Mass., career coach with a doctorate in psychology, works individually with recent graduates, students and their parents who find themselves in this situation.

While few kids arrive home with absolutely no thoughts about what is next, Klein said that often, "Things are not thought out as clearly as they

need to be. ... They have not had the difficult conversations —parent to child and child to parent."

Parents, Klein advises, need to say, "Let's talk about why you're home and what your short- and long-term goals are. What is your purpose for being at home? Are you trying to save money? Let's talk about

what that means."

Klein said part of that discussion can be about what he or she should pay for room and board, and about household chores. Klein works with grads over the telephone. "If they come into the office, it feels more like therapy," he said.

He assesses their interests, their strengths, their personalities. He helps his client come up with a so-called action plan, steps to be accomplished between phone calls. His service costs about \$1,500 for a three-to six-month package of assessments and phone calls.

Klein said he cringes when he hears about parents who tell their children, "Just do something; I don't care what." The other extreme, he said, are parents who are comfortable having the kid at home or so fearful of hurting the relationship that they don't have those challenging conversations.

"They don't create any boundaries at all," said Klein. "We get a lot of that with baby boomers. 'That's OK honey. I'll take care of you. We'll figure it out.'"

Jeff Arnett, a psychologist and the author of "Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road From Late Teens Through the Twenties," said parents need to

be patient with kids and realize what they are going through is typical. "They don't want to live there any more than you want them to live there."

Most, he said, move home for a transitional period of as long as six months or, at most, a year. He said the young adults want to make their own decisions.

Maureen Mulroy, associate professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Connecticut's Cooperative Extension Program, said parents should encourage grads but not find the job for them.

She said sometimes young adults become overwhelmed by their situation. They think, "I supposedly have all this knowledge and these skills to make me a bona fide, dues-paying adult, and I'm scared. I'm kind of frozen in time and place."

In such cases, Mulroy said, kids can withdraw and even become depressed. If this lasts for more than a couple of weeks, she suggests seeking medical attention.

Most kids have a record of summer employment, and it might help to return to an ordinary, familiar summer job to give them some balance while they search for a career-related job, she said.



How should young graduates get going in the job market, and how much should parents help?

SAT owner: New test predicts college performance better

By LARRY GORDON
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

The addition of a mandatory writing section to the SAT three years ago slightly improved the exam's ability to predict academic success for college freshman, according to a new report by the test's owner.

The study sponsored by the College Board also found that scores from the new writing section are somewhat better at predicting grades in the first year of college than the other two SAT sections. The best predictor of all is for colleges to look at scores on all 3 test sections as well as high school transcripts, according to the report released Tuesday.

College Board officials pronounced themselves delighted with the report, saying it proves that the SAT's changes in 2005 were fair and academically valid. "Now the results are in and it is clear that the writing section has tremendous value," College Board President Gaston Caperton told reporters in a telephone conference call Tuesday.

But critics said it was much ado about nothing. They suggested the report was an attempt to deter more colleges

SAT essay yields mixed results

By JOHN HILDEBRAND
(C) 2008, NEWSDAY

MELVILLE, N.Y.—A new report on the SAT's controversial writing test finds that it provides colleges with little additional help in predicting how well applicants will do during their first year on campus, beyond help provided by other data such as high school grades.

However, the study released Tuesday by the SAT's sponsors at the New York-based College Board also concludes that scores from the writing section are a better predictor of students' success than scores from either of the test's older sections in math and reading.

from joining the small but growing number of campuses that have dropped the SAT as an admissions requirement.

The marginal improvement in the test's ability to predict college grades was not worth all the debate, higher fees and extra testing time that came with the SAT changes in 2005, contended Robert Schaeffer, public education director for the National Center for Fair and

known as FairTest. The group contends that college applicants should be judged by their high school achievements, not their SAT scores.

College Board officials insist that their writing section is a valuable tool for college admissions officers, and that it has spurred high schools to beef up their instruction in that subject.

"Writing as a college-level skill is a crucial asset for student success," said Gaston Caperton, president of the College Board.

The SAT is taken by nearly 1.5 million students nationwide each year. Since the writing section was added, average SAT scores have taken their biggest dip in a generation. But College Board officials say the drop is due to factors other than

Open Testing, known as FairTest. "It is not better than the old SAT, and it is no fairer," said Schaeffer, whose group, based in Cambridge, Mass., opposes most standardized tests.

Most universities require applicants to take the SAT or its main competitor, the ACT, as a uniform standard in an era of grade inflation and vastly different high school experiences. The SAT has sections

on math and critical reasoning along with the newer writing component, which includes a student-produced essay and multiple choice questions about grammar.

The test now takes three hours and 45 minutes, which is 45 minutes longer than the old exam, and a perfect score is now 2400, up from 1600. The test-taking fee has risen from \$29.50 to \$45 over the past

the writing section, such as the increased diversity of students taking the exam.

The study released Tuesday did not address declining scores. Rather, it examined the writing section's reliability as a predictor of student success, by looking at records of more than 150,000 students on 110 campuses.

There was a correlation of 0.62 between students' success in college and their high-school grade averages, combined with overall SAT scores. Researchers consider this a relatively high correlation; a figure of 1.00 would be perfect.

On the other hand, scores from the writing section alone added only 0.01 to the correlation between college success and high-school grade averages, combined with scores

three years. College Board officials on Tuesday said the report was the most comprehensive since the new version was introduced in March 2005. The study was based on data from more than 150,000 students from colleges and universities across the country.

The changes were propelled in large part by the University of California, the SAT's biggest customer, which had threatened

from the math and reading sections of the SAT. College Board researchers concluded that 0.01 did not represent a substantial change.

Despite these findings, many educators feel that the College Board's addition of a writing section has sent the correct message to students that they need to take the subject seriously.

In Rockville Centre, schools Superintendent Bill Johnson says his system seeks to emphasize the subject through an International Baccalaureate program that requires students to complete 4,000-word research papers. Said Johnson, "Information that we continually get back from college presidents is that students are not prepared to write research essays."

to drop the test as an admissions requirement. In 2001, then University of California President Richard C. Atkinson criticized the SAT as testing ill-defined notions of aptitude and said it was unfair.

Besides the new writing section, the revisions also toughened up the math with more advanced algebra questions and eliminated verbal analogy questions.

Life & Style

Pope welcomes youth pilgrims to Australia



Pilgrims carry the World Youth Day Cross through a street of Sydney after it arrived by ferry at Circular Quay, Australia, Monday, July 14, 2008. AP

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) -- A massive Catholic youth celebration kicked off Tuesday with an Australian "G'Day" and a welcoming text message from Pope Benedict XVI to the tens of thousands of pilgrims who have traveled here from around the world.

As the clock struck midnight, a giant countdown clock ticked over to read "G'Day Pilgrims" - Good Day Pilgrims - drawing wild cheers from flag-waving youth who had gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral to mark the start of the six-day celebration.

Registered pilgrims received the first of daily inspirational text messages from the pope: "Young friend, God and his people expect much from u because u have within you the Fathers supreme gift: the Spirit of Jesus - BXVI."

Organizers say nearly 250,000 people have registered for World Youth Day, more than half of them from overseas.

The pope, who arrived Sunday, is resting at a secluded retreat on the outskirts of Sydney until Thursday, when he starts a busy round of meetings, takes a cruise on Sydney Harbour and makes a major address to the pilgrims. The festival culminates with a papal Mass on Sunday.

Also Tuesday, a federal court struck down a new law that banned people from annoying pilgrims, ruling that it restricted free speech.

The ruling cleared the way for the NoPope Coalition - a group of gay rights and secular activists opposed to the pope's policies on contraception, abortion and homosexuality - to hand out condoms and coat hangers - symbolizing abortions - to pilgrims at a Saturday demonstration.

Jess Sudholz, a teenage pilgrim from the Australian state of Victoria, was unfazed by the prospect of protests.

"I think everyone should be allowed to say what they want. It's their opinion," Sudholz said. "We're still going to have fun."

On Monday, pilgrims bore a giant wooden cross through the streets of Australia's largest city with thousands of faithful crowding around.

The 12.5-foot cross and a copy of a painting portraying Mary and Jesus landed by ferry at Sydney's busy Circular Quay, completing a yearlong tour of more than 400 communities across Australia from the desert Out-

back to the tropical north.

Hundreds of faithful gathered on the wharf burst into applause and belted out Australia's unofficial anthem, "Waltzing Matilda," as the boat docked and the cross was carried into downtown Sydney.

"It means everything to me - it's the symbol of my faith," said Linda Wilkins, 55, a Sydney office worker who raced down from her high rise and ducked under a tape meant to keep onlookers away to caress the cross. "To touch it makes me feel I was an integral part of it."

During the procession, groups of volunteers took turns carrying the 88-pound cross and 33-pound painting. Pilgrims sang "Amazing Grace" and shouted out Australia's rallying cry: "Aussie, Aussie, Aussie! Oi, oi, oi!" Others echoed with, "Holy, holy, holy! Spirit, spirit, spirit!"

Stephanie Luna, 18, from Laredo, Texas, was one of many who burst into tears.

"We're homesick and we're exhausted, but it's a sacrifice," said the 18-year-old, who helped carry the cross through Sydney. "It was so beautiful."

Benedict's predecessor, John Paul II, gave the cross to the youth of the world in 1984 to be carried across continents as a symbol of Christ's love for humanity.

Benedict has raised expectations that he will apologize directly to victims of past clergy sexual abuse while in Australia, telling reporters he will do everything possible to achieve "healing and reconciliation with the victims." Activists in Australia have demanded a formal apology from the pope.

Sydney Archbishop Cardinal George Pell, who met briefly with Benedict on Monday, said the church in Australia had apologized to clergy abuse victims a number of times, and was still struggling to help them heal. "That's the most important thing. Counseling, help, justice," Pell said.

Benedict also signaled he will discuss the need to face up to the "great challenge" of caring for the environment, noting that global warming is an issue worrying many young people.

There was a minor security scare at Benedict's retreat late Monday, when a police officer in a guard unit accidentally set off what authorities described as a "distraction device," seriously burning his hands. Deputy Police Commissioner Dave Owens said the pope was never in any danger.

What does the pope do on his day off?

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — One shot pigeons, another played bocce ball with the Swiss Guards, and John Paul II skied and hiked.

But give Pope Benedict XVI a grand piano and he will feel his vacation is complete.

What popes do on their days off has usually been the subject of speculation. But officials have given some hints about Benedict, who has taken off three days to rest and recover from jet lag as he prepares to meet with hundreds of thousands of young pilgrims for the church's World Youth Day.

The 81-year-old pontiff is ensconced at a secluded study center run by the conservative Catholic organization Opus Dei in bush country outside Sydney.

His spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said Benedict plans no public activities until the welcoming ceremony Thursday morning. But he said a Vatican television crew would be on call to record anything noteworthy "like if they bring him a kangaroo."

On Monday, the day after flying more than 20 hours from the Vatican in the longest journey of his three-year papacy, the 81-year-old Benedict took several walks, touched up his speeches for later in the week, and was treated to an afternoon concert by seven members of the Sydney Symphony

Training Orchestra. They played Schumann, Schubert and Mozart — a particular favorite, Lombardi said.

He met with Sydney Archbishop Cardinal George Pell to discuss the upcoming events over brunch.

"His health is very good. The pope is resting," said Lombardi.

On the grounds of the retreat is a swimming pool, tennis court and a miniature chapel built right against the bush — with windows looking out onto Australian native eucalyptus trees.

Awaiting Thursday's commencement of a busy four-day schedule, Benedict, an accomplished pianist, will be more than content to practice on the piano, read or make last-minute touches to his speeches.

"The lodgings in Kenthurst are simple but comfortable," Pell told reporters before visiting the pontiff there Monday. "He does have access to a tennis court — but we don't anticipate that he will be using that."

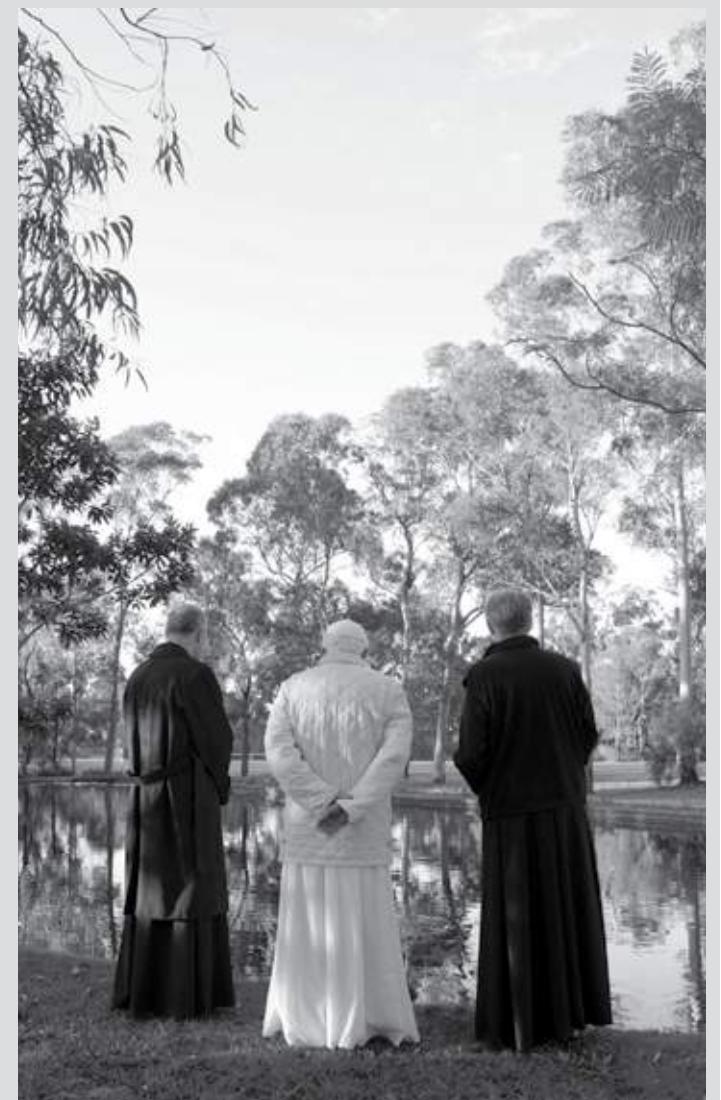
"I am sure that he will be in fine form

for his official welcome on Thursday," Pell said.

Benedict is a brisk walker and aides say his health is good, but he clearly enjoys a more sedentary life than his predecessor John Paul. Even during vacations in the Italian Alps, he is rarely seen outside his compound.

Leo XIII, an avid hunter before becoming pope in 1878, was known to shoot pigeons from the windows of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican. Benedict XV, pope from 1914-22, played bocce with the Swiss Guards in a Vatican courtyard.

Other pontiffs simply took walks inside the Vatican, sometimes alarming unsuspecting gardeners and other workers.



In this picture released by the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, Pope Benedict XVI, center, and his personal secretary Georg Gaenswein, right, and Monsignor Alfred Xuereb walk in front of a lake at the Kenthurst Study Centre, in Sydney, Monday, July 14, 2008. AP

Until hip and knee ailments slowed him down in the 1990s and symptoms of Parkinson's disease set in, John Paul hiked in the Italian Alps, in Canada's Jasper Park during a tour of that country in 1984 and in the Rocky Mountains outside Denver during World Youth Day there in 1993.

John Paul had never made a secret of his love for the mountains, the backwoods and the ski slopes, sometimes slipping out of the Vatican to avoid scandalizing prelates who believed those activities were un-pope like.

Although he answered five questions submitted in advance in a 15-minute meeting with reporters aboard his plane from Rome, Benedict is generally being kept far from the press. He didn't mingle with the traveling press as John Paul did on long flights.

But 12 youngsters will join Benedict for lunch on Friday at St. Mary's Cathedral House in Sydney. The Vatican said they can ask questions.

French daily scoops Hollywood reporters

NICE, France (AP)—The world's entertainment press tripped over themselves, making embarrassing errors along the way, as they fought to be first to report the biggest celebrity story of the year: the birth of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's twins.

In the end, the scoop went to a provincial French newspaper.

"It was Brad Pitt who chose to give the scoop to Nice-Matin," said assistant editor-in-chief Olivier Biscaye. "He said to the doctor that the local media should be the first informed about the birth."

Nice-Matin put one of its most experienced reporters on the story, Jean-Francois Roubaud, who was given access that the rest of the media pack camped outside the Lenal hospital could only dream about. While security kept out other reporters, Roubaud was allowed inside and given access to Jolie's obstetrician, Dr. Michel Sussmann.

So while the In Touch Weekly Web site almost got it right when it reported that twin girls had been born Saturday, Nice-Matin knew better. The newspaper also spared itself the frenzied run-around of other news outlets following a false report by U.S.-based television program "Entertainment Tonight" at the end of May that the twins had been born.

The French gossip magazine Closer also claimed a world exclusive when it mistakenly anticipated the birth of the twins by nearly two weeks, and several gossip Web sites got their names wrong.

"We knew we would be the



The mayor of Nice, Christian Estrosi, center, holds the birth certificates of one of Angelina Jolie's twins, Knox Leon Jolie-Pitt, as he and Dr. Michel Sussmann, Jolie's obstetrician, left, pose for the media, at the Lenal Hospital in Nice, southern France, Sunday, July 13, 2008. AP

first in the world," said Christophe Caietti, editor of the Nice-Matin magazine section, which spotlighted the birth with a special insert Monday.

Roubaud was given a heads-up that the Caesarean section was going to be performed 30 minutes before Jolie went in for the delivery Saturday evening. The birth certificates show that Knox Leon was born at 6:27 p.m. and his sister, Vivienne Marcheline, a minute later.

"Roubaud spoke to the doctor around 10 p.m., 9:45. We had all the details: the names, weight,

one boy, one girl," said Caietti.

Nice-Matin broke the story when it published news of the births on its Web site at 2 a.m. Sunday, four hours before the print version hit the newsstands.

The access also gave the paper other little exclusive nuggets, like Pitt's first words after the birth of the twins, as reported by Sussmann: "Marvelous, wonderful!" and the doctor acknowledging that the date of the delivery had been moved up by about 10 days "for the mother's comfort."

As the major daily serving

the French Riviera, the 280,000-circulation Nice-Matin has always made celebrity life an integral part of its coverage. The magazine section this summer has featured photos of Naomi Campbell walking along the beach, Jerry Hall in St. Tropez and Faye Dunaway preparing for production of a film about the life of Maria Callas. But the general-interest newspaper prides itself on respecting celebrities' privacy.

"Nice-Matin has always chosen not to play the game of paparazzi towards the celebrities

who have chosen to live in the region. We respect them, and they do likewise. We let them have a peaceful life. This is why I think Brad and Angelina have chosen to make this gift to Nice-Matin," Caietti said.

Other celebrities with Riviera residences, including Elton John, Bono and the Edge, often give the newspaper access to events—on the condition they are for local publication only and not for sale, Caietti said.

On Monday, the paper featured a Page One picture taken by its own photographer of Pitt (wearing the must-have item of the summer: a Panama hat) posing alongside Sussmann, Mayor Christian Estrosi and the Lenal hospital director, Bernard Lecat.

"Everyone wants that picture. It is not for sale. It would be very expensive, maybe not a million dollars, but very expensive. It is the only picture from the day," Caietti said. "But we won't sell it, out of respect for the family."

So far, that is as close as the paper has come to the Jolie-Pitt family. But Nice-Matin will remain on the Brangelina story—with hopes of yet more scoops to come. It has already reported that an unnamed U.S. publication has paid \$11 million for exclusive rights to the first photo of the newly expanded Jolie-Pitt family, and that the proceeds will go to charity.

Once that deal is executed, Nice-Matin hopes to get a shot of the twins and their parents.

"And maybe an interview at their villa in Correns" nearby, Caietti said.

Death Row Records auctioned for \$24M

NEW YORK (AP)—Death Row Records, the hip-hop label that released seminal gangster rap albums by Tupac Shakur, Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg, has been auctioned for \$24 million.

The New York-based Global Music Group Inc. said in a statement to The Associated Press on Monday that on June 24 it purchased Death Row, including its enviable back catalog and current artist contracts.

The purchase concluded the roller-coaster saga of one of hip-hop's most famous labels. Under owner Marion "Suge" Knight, Death Row sold tens of millions of albums in the heyday of early '90s rap—its artists often flashing the spoils of the high life in music videos—before collapsing in debt and mismanagement.

A former couple, Lydia and Michael Harris, claimed they helped found the label, and won a judgment of \$107 million, which they tried to collect in 2006. Unable to pay, Death Row and Knight filed for bankruptcy in April 2006, claiming debts of more than \$100 million.

In 2006, a federal judge ordered a bankruptcy trustee takeover of Death Row Records, saying the label had undergone gross mismanagement. Knight's decision to file for bankruptcy protection staved off a move by the court to appoint someone to take control of the record label and his assets.

Global Music Group, an independent label, takes ownership of albums including Dr. Dre's "The Chronic," Shakur's "All Eyez on Me" and Snoop Dogg's "Doggystyle."

Other assets are believed to include unreleased material from Shakur that could result in another posthumous release from the rapper.

Knight has a history of legal problems. He was convicted of assault in 1992 and placed on probation, then jailed for five years in 1996 for violating that probation.

He was returned to jail in 2003 for again violating parole, this time by punching a parking attendant at a Hollywood nightclub. He was released the next year.

In 2006 under questioning from his creditors, Knight denied having money tucked away in foreign countries. His bank account then contained just \$11.

Global Music CEO Anthony Davi, Jr., said the label planned to get "the best economic results of the catalog and provide long term stewardship of the artists' work." The company plans to later announce details of its plans for Death Row.

Miss USA offers humor, philosophy about fall

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Miss USA has learned a simple lesson from her humiliating tumble during the Miss Universe pageant—the second year in a row the American contestant has taken a spill.

"I think I'm going to have to take some walking classes," Crystle Stewart told The Associated Press during a telephone interview Monday, just hours after her mishap was broadcast live across the globe.

"I would never have thought in a million years that I would fall down at the Miss Universe pageant—right after Miss USA fell last year," Stewart said. "I always wondered: My God, if that happened to me, what would I do?"

Stewart is taking the episode with equal parts humor and philosophy, determined to move on.

"Things happen," said Stewart, 26. "I'm perfectly fine. I'm going to move back to New York and get on with my life."

Stewart's fall came as she walked on stage for the evening gown competition.

"My dress has beautiful beads on the bottom of it, and I stepped on my gown and they made me slip. It was like I was on Rollerblades. There was no conspiracy or anything. Nobody left marbles on the floor. It was just me."

Miss Venezuela, who won the contest, will now become Stewart's roommate in New York, where Miss Universe, Miss USA and Miss Teen USA share an apartment provided by the company that owns all three pageants.

Stewart and the other contestants attended a coronation party for the new Miss Universe, Dayana Mendoza, on Monday night in Nha Trang, where the pageant was held.

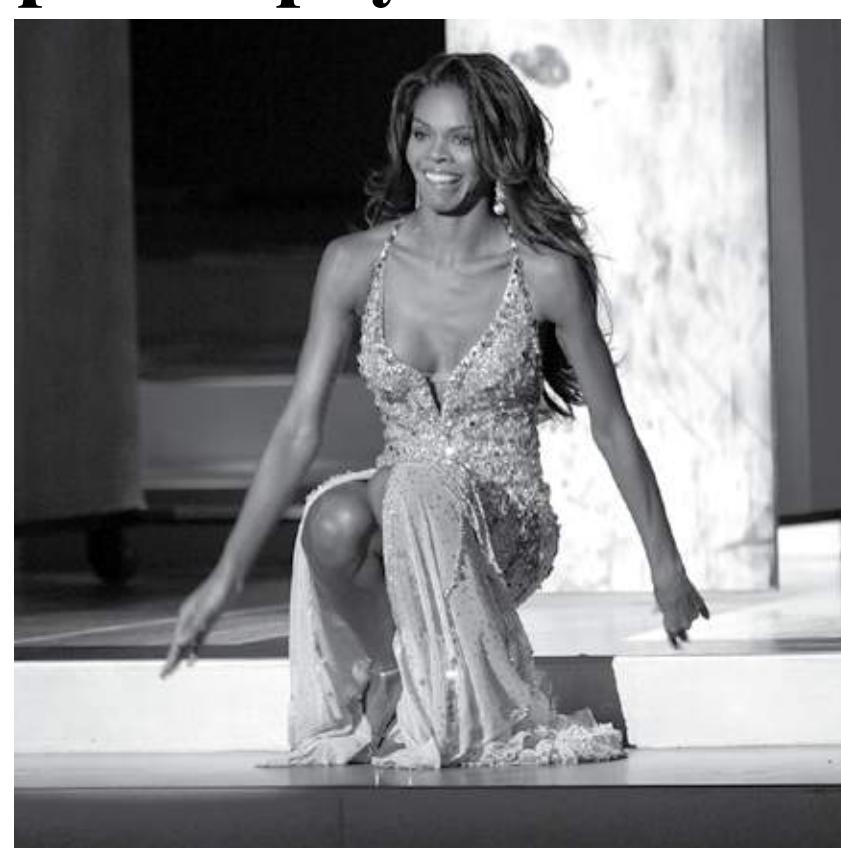
Stewart is a motivational speaker and has developed a character education program which she teaches in a New York City school. She plans to turn her mishap into a lesson.

"I'll be talking to my students about it when I get back," she said. "Sometimes you fall in life, not just in the pageant but financially or emotionally. It's not about the fall but how you pick yourself up."

After she fell down, Stewart stood up, gave herself a round of applause, and kept on walking.

During the 2007 Miss Universe contest in Mexico City, Miss USA Rachel Smith also tumbled during the evening gown competition and became an unintended star on YouTube, where the video was shown over and over again.

Now Stewart has become an Internet sensation, drawing thousands of hits on YouTube and lighting up the conversa-



Crystle Stewart, Miss USA, falls down during the evening gowns segment of the Miss Universe 2008 beauty pageant in Nha Trang, Vietnam, Monday, July 14, 2008. AP

tion in Internet chatrooms.

Stewart is determined not to let the ridicule bring her down.

"I know I'll get through it and that there are bigger and better things to come," she said.

Jessica King out, Comfort Fedoke in on 'Dance'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jessica King is out and Comfort Fedoke is getting another shot on "So You Think You can Dance," Fox TV said Monday.

An injury forced King to leave the dance show, the network said. The nature of the ailment was not disclosed, but Fox said the top 10 contestant was quitting on her doctor's advice.

"Her full recovery is paramount and will only come with rest," series executive producer and judge Nigel Lythgoe said, adding that King had given her blessing to semifinalist Fedoke's return.

Lythgoe, who fielded questions from reporters at a Television Critics Association meeting, said Fedoke faces the possibility of being eliminated again but was game to compete.

"She sat with Jessica and the lovely story is she (Fedoke) said, 'I am so unhappy that you are indisposed, but I thank God for the opportunity of coming back,'" Lythgoe recounted, adding, "And that just shows the determination of the young lady."

Fedoke joins previously announced finalists Joshua Allen, Twitch Boss, Courtney Galiano,



This combination of 2 undated photos provided by Fox shows Jessica King, left, and Comfort Fedoke of Fox's "So You Think You Can Dance".

Chelsie Hightower, Mark Kamenura, Gev Manoukian, Kherington Payne, Katee Shean and Will Wingfield.

They will be paired with new dance partners on Wednesday's two-hour performance show (8 p.m. EDT). The results of view-

er voting will be announced on Thursday's hourlong show (9 p.m. EDT) with two of the dancers facing elimination this week.

Jimmy Kimmel, Sarah Silverman end romance



In this April 3, 2008 file photo, Television host Jimmy Kimmel, left, and actress Sarah Silverman pose on the press line at the Jimmy Kimmel Show's 1000th Episode Party in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—Jimmy Kimmel and Sarah Silverman have broken up, their publicists said Monday. "Jimmy and Sarah have no further comment," Kimmel's spokesman Lewis Kay told The Associated Press, confirming the split that was first reported on *Vanity Fair* magazine's Web site.

Silverman's publicist, Amy Zvi, confirmed the breakup in an e-mail message to the AP. Zvi didn't immediately respond when asked for further details.

The pair dated for five years, and were one of Hollywood's funniest—and seemingly solid—couples.

Earlier this year, they took the Internet by storm with a mega-popular video duel. Silverman debuted a clip of her and Matt Damon singing about their fake love affair on Kimmel's ABC late-night show "Jimmy Kimmel Live," and Kimmel later responded with a star-studded video declaring a romance with Damon's best friend, Ben Affleck.

Whoopi Goldberg to appear in 'Xanadu' on Broadway



NEW YORK (AP)—Whoopi Goldberg is going back to Broadway. Goldberg, a co-host on the ABC's "The View," announced on the air Monday that she will appear in the Tony-nominated roller-skating musical "Xanadu" as one of the show's evil sisters, Caliope.

Goldberg, 52, has previously been on Broadway with her own one-woman show as well as in revivals of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" and "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom."

She begins her six-week "Xanadu" run on July 29, taking over for actress Jackie Hoffman, who will return to the production on Sept. 9, said Karl Nilsson, spokesman for "The View."

The show—an unexpected critical favorite—was loosely adapted from the cult 1980s film starring Olivia Newton-John. It also features Kerry Butler, Cheyenne Jackson and Tony Roberts.

In this June 15, 2008 file photo, Whoopi Goldberg hosts the 62nd Annual Tony Awards in New York.

Judge orders Khloe Kardashian to jail

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Khloe Kardashian's next dose of reality will involve the county jail. The youngest daughter of famed defense attorney Robert Kardashian admitted violating her probation stemming from a 2007 drunken driving arrest during a July 3 court hearing, according to court records.

A Los Angeles Superior Court judge ordered Kardashian, who's featured on E! Entertainment Television's "Keeping Up With the Kardashians," to surrender to authorities on Friday and serve up to 30 days in jail.

Kardashian will also have to enroll in an alcohol treatment pro-



In this June 23, 2008 file photo, Television personality Khloe Kardashian poses on the press line at a pre-BET Awards party in Los Angeles.

gram—one of the terms of probation she failed to complete—with in three weeks of her release. She will also remain on probation.

"Khloe is ready and willing to serve out her sentence, no matter how long and where, and have this resolved," her publicist, Jeff Raymond, told The Associated Press.

It's unclear how long Kardashian, 23, will remain in jail. Other, more famous celebrities including Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie have served shortened sentences because of jail overcrowding.

Her drunken driving arrest was featured in an episode of the E! series.

Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots, battle again

NEW YORK (AP)—England's Queen Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots, will square off on Broadway next spring in the critically acclaimed London production of "Mary Stuart," starring Janet McT-

eer and Harriet Walter.

McTeer will portray Mary, Queen of Scots, and Walter will be Elizabeth in the Donmar Warehouse production, which later moved to London's West End. The

New York opening date, other casting and theater will be announced.

The adaptation of Friedrich Schiller's classic play by Peter Oswald, will be directed by Phyllida Lloyd.

Mom's reluctance to discuss sex puts daughters at risk

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My 17-year-old niece, "Nicki," was recently diagnosed with an STD. When her mother, my sister-in-law "Cynthia," found out she was horrified. She had ignored several family members -- including me -- who had tried to warn her that Nicki was sexually active and not taking proper precautions.

Now Nicki's 14-year-old sister, "Danni," has come to me because she was afraid she was pregnant. I took her to get a pregnancy test done. Thank God, it was negative.

I think Danni should be tested for STDs, and both she and Nicki should be on birth control.

I can't get this through to my sister-in-law. Cynthia thinks I "don't understand" because I have sons, and "all I have to do is give them condoms."

Yes, but I have also talked to them about sex, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and prevention, as well as the importance of acting responsibly.

I just want my nieces to be safe. Cynthia is living in a state of denial. How can I protect my nieces?

CONCERNED AUNT IN NEW YORK

DEAR AUNT: Danni obviously trusts you, or she would not have come to you when she thought she was in serious trouble. It's a shame the girls don't have a closer relationship with their mother, and that she has chosen to hide her head in the sand rather than confront the obvious. Because she seems unable to talk to her daughters about sex and the responsibilities that go with it, you should.

If you feel uncomfortable talking to them about this, I have a booklet that can help you. It's called "What Every Teen Should Know," and it has been used by doctors and educators to get the message across in easy-to-understand language. It also contains sections on drugs, alcohol and date rape.

My teen booklet can be ordered by sending a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Your nieces must understand that having unprotected sex is not only dangerous, but could also prevent them from having children at a time in their lives when they're prepared to provide for them. It's obvious that you care about those girls. So schedule the discussion ASAP, and impress upon them that the decisions they're making now will affect their entire futures and how important it is for them to avoid the pitfalls.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Is it rude or inconsiderate for a person to knit, crochet or piece a quilt while attending a meeting or other gathering?

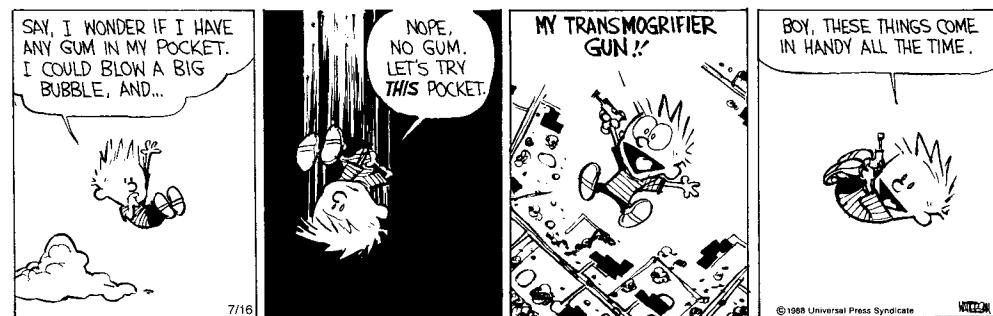
CURIOUS IN THE SUNBELT

DEAR CURIOUS: Although I may get some argument about this, I do think it's rude. When someone is attending a meeting or a social gathering, it is considered good manners to give the speaker or other attendees your full attention. And while I expect to hear from readers who say they can "multi-task," to do so sends the wrong message.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



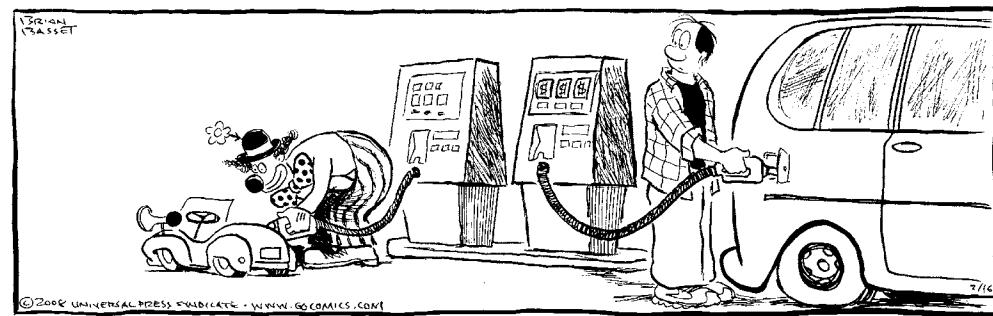
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38	Fermi's	DOWN	20	Welsh
1	Fat	bit	1	Earring	emblem
5	Sailor	39	Seesaw	22	Festive
8	Sleeping	quorum	2	Leading	event
12	Aroma	41	Earl	23	Put
13	Actress	Grey's kin	3	Virginia	forth
14	Longoria	43	Politician	25	Altar
15	Tear in	Poolside	Chuck	26	Affirmative
16	two	structure	4	Laundromat	Actress
17	Smallest	46	Coiffure	50	Thompson
18	porridge	50	Mound	51	Seine
19	eater	stats	stats	52	side
20	Quite	51	Actress	29	Emit
21	enthusiastic	Tallulah	Tallulah	31	coherent
22	Hearth	54	Fuzz	32	light
23	minutia	55	Caustic	33	As well
24	Serpentine	solution	7	Branch	32
25	swimmer	56	Hotel	34	Benefit
26	Misfortunes	staffer	57	MIT	38
27	Wheelbase	58	Canoists'	40	Respiratory
28	terminus	Evergreen	mecca	42	Affliction
29	30	type	58	43	Squander
30	Greek vowel	Dilettantish	11	44	Honeycomb
31	Billy —	half	Crucial	45	Chamber
32	Williams	59	time	46	Met
33	Dismal	59	16	47	Melody
34	Behind	Bikini	Bikini	48	With
35	36	ish	half	49	2008, e.g.
37	Lumoxox	53	50	50	49
38	They	Fresh	Vortex	52	Cafe
39	get		53	52	au —
40	into			53	Nay
41	a row			54	Opponent
42				55	53
43				56	Fresh

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 7-16

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mark Indelicato, 14; Corey Feldman, 37; Will Ferrell, 41; Michael Flatley, 50

Happy Birthday: Do your best to satisfy your professional desires. You are dedicated, loyal and determined, so don't be afraid of a little failure. Success will be yours if you push to do your own thing. A financial problem may occur if you are too generous. This is a year to ask for favors. Your numbers are 6, 9, 14, 28, 34, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may get away with using brute force in the beginning but, as the day progresses, it will work against you. Put out good vibes and you will see your popularity grow. Don't let the criticism of someone you are close to get to you. ☀

Taurus (April 20-May 20): There isn't anything you can't do if you try hard enough. Trust in your own judgment, your ability and your track record. Someone you care for may confuse you. Find out what it's all about instead of criticizing. ☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put a little effort into your place. You have to take pride in where you live and how. Make plans that include a little love and affection. Reconsider your current relationships. ☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can pull weight if you speak up. Travel may not be your thing but today it will lead to opportunities. Your intuition is strong so make whatever adjustments are necessary for you. ☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You have to have enough faith in what you are doing and who you are to move forward, even if you don't have everyone's blessings. A change of location or scenery will inspire you to make a few very important changes to your life. ☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take a backseat if someone gets aggressive or difficult to handle. If you decide to wage war, you can expect the fight of a lifetime. Instead, take care of your personal papers in case you need to deal with legal matters. ☀

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You are in a high cycle that can bring you your dreams, hopes and wishes if you go after them with the same vigor you have used in the past. Victory is in your corner and an important

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't get lazy when there's a lots to do and much to gain. Hard work will pave the way to your success. You are Leo the Lion -- a fierce but generous leader. Give your all. ☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take things as they come but, if someone tries to meddle in your affairs, put an end to it quickly. Use your charm, sensitivity and good common sense to show others you are quite capable of handling your own affairs. Don't argue; take control. ☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Sharing is not a good idea. If you present something before you have the kinks ironed out, you will get a no. Put more time into creating something that requires no explanation for others. ☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You have to have enough faith in what you are doing and who you are to move forward, even if you don't have everyone's blessings. A change of location or scenery will inspire you to make a few very important changes to your life. ☀

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGYCOURTESY 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

milestone can be made. ☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone important may be watching what you are doing. Don't get nervous -- use this opportunity to prove yourself. Play your part well and you will make a lasting impression that could change your life. Push for perfection. ☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An important connection can be made. Don't hesitate to form partnerships or look at the possibility of working with someone who can complement your talents. Look at your present circumstances and realize that accepting help is not a bad idea. ☀

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent with a strong belief in your abilities and how much you can accomplish. You strive for perfection, are open-minded and have extraordinary perception.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7	6	5			9	3		
3	4	9			6	7		
		6			8			
	1	5	2					
4			5					
1	9	6			2			
9			8					
5	2	9			1			
	8	7			3			

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	1	4	5	9	2	8	7	6
6	2	5	4	8	7	3	9	1
9	7	8	6	1	3	2	4	5
4	9	1	8	7	6	5	3	2
5	6	7	3	2	4	9	1	8
8	3	2	9	5	1	4	6	7
7	5	6	2	3	9	1	8	4
2	4	9	1	6	8	7	5	3
1	8	3	7	4	5	6	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

By DAVID
OUELLET

WONDERWORD®

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FAMOUS PHILANTHROPISTS

T	D	T	E	R	I	A	N	O	I	L	L	I	M	A
F	E	T	T	E	F	F	U	B	N	I	R	T	(S)	T
I	L	T	A	A	R	E	Y	O	M	O	C	R	(W)	T
G	L	E	F	O	R	D	N	P	C	A	Y	A	(E)	I
A	S	S	I	S	T	P	A	K	U	P	D	E	(N)	C
R	E	S	O	R	C	E	S	O	V	E	H	O	U	
E	L	A	U	O	T	F	E	R	O	D	L	M	T	S
E	B	E	F	A	E</									

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• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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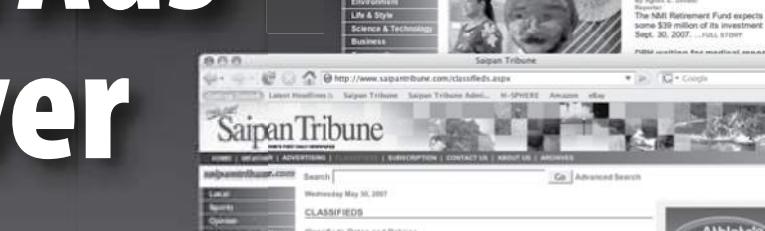
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Saipan Tribune



Hamilton has record round, but Morneau wins Derby



NEW YORK
(AP)—

Josh Hamilton dreamed it. Now he's done it. With a dazzling display of power Monday night, the Texas Rangers slugger hit a record 28 homers in the first round of the All-Star Home Run Derby at Yankee Stadium before he was beaten out by Minnesota's Justin Morneau in the finals.

Morneau topped a tired Hamilton 5-3 in the last round, giving him the derby title. But the night belonged to Hamilton.

Back from drug and alcohol addiction that derailed his career, Hamilton broke Bobby Abreu's mark for one round. Abreu hit 24 home runs in the first round in 2005 at Detroit's Comerica Park.

Hamilton's incredible tale of redemption has made national news this season, and he retold a story Monday afternoon about a vivid dream he had two years ago—he was being interviewed at Yankee Stadium after participating in the Home Run Derby.

"I can say it was a coincidence, but I don't believe in those," he said.

Mind you, his dream came while Hamilton was still banned from Major League Baseball, and before this year's All-Star game was awarded to the venerable ballpark in its final season.

"Obviously, the dream, I didn't know how many I would hit," Hamilton said in a TV interview after his huge first-round performance. "I just feel blessed to have played here."

With the crowd of 53,716



Texas Rangers' Josh Hamilton swings at the ball during the Major League Baseball All-Star Home Run Derby at Yankee Stadium in New York on Monday, July 14, 2008. Hamilton hit a record 28 home runs in the first round.

chanting his name, undoubtedly warmed by his improbable journey to stardom, Hamilton con-

nected on 13 consecutive cuts before falling short of the fences on his final two.

"I got chills," he said.

Hamilton was drafted No. 1 overall by Tampa Bay in 1999,

with some veteran scouts calling him the best prospect they'd ever seen. He finally reached the majors last year with Cincinnati, then was traded in the offseason for All-Star pitcher Edinson Volquez in a deal that has paid off immensely for both teams. With his smooth left-handed swing and jaw-dropping power, Hamilton seemed a natural choice to take advantage of Yankee Stadium's short right-field porch. But he cleared the deepest fences with ease, hitting three shots farther than 500 feet—including his longest estimated at 518.

That was the third-longest drive in the 19-year history of the derby, behind Sammy Sosa's 524-foot homer in 2002 at Miller Park in Milwaukee and Frank Thomas' 519-footer in 1994 at old Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh.

Hamilton's 28 homers in the first round were the second-highest total for an entire derby, behind Abreu's 41 for Philadelphia in 2005.

Signing autographs for players' young kids between swings, Hamilton took a few deep breaths and received high fives from his Texas teammates on the AL All-Star squad. Rangers designated hitter Milton Bradley even strolled to the plate to wipe off Hamilton's forehead with a towel.

"We were sitting there saying, how do you follow that?" Morneau said. "I'm glad I didn't hit right after him, that's for sure."

Hamilton totaled 35 homers to Morneau's 22—and the

Texas outfielder stopped after making only four outs in the second round because he was already assured a spot in the finals. Contestants get 10 outs in each round.

"I couldn't ask for anything else," Hamilton said. "You don't feel tired, but obviously you're a little tired."

When it was over, Morneau was left practically apologizing for winning.

"I was lucky that we got reset," he said. "This was his show. He deserved to win it. That was one of the best performances I've ever seen."

"It does seem kind of unfair that he didn't get to win the whole thing," Morneau added. "Anyone who was here won't forget that performance."

Nobody has ever hit a fair ball out of Yankee Stadium, but some of baseball's top sluggers took aim at Monument Park and the ballpark's vast upper deck Monday night.

One of Hamilton's 500-foot drives hit a wall behind the right-field bleachers, drawing a roar from the delirious crowd.

Hamilton's batting practice pitcher also was quite a story. The slugger chose a 71-year-old volunteer coach who often threw BP to Hamilton when he was a teenager in North Carolina.

Milwaukee's Ryan Braun and Houston's Lance Berkman were knocked out in the semifinals. Eliminated in the first round were Philadelphia's Chase Utley, Cleveland's Grady Sizemore, Florida's Dan Uggla and Tampa Bay's Evan Longoria, the first rookie to participate since Nomar Garciaparra in 1997.

Ben Sheets, Cliff Lee to start 2008 MLB All-Star game

NEW YORK (AP)—Fired up about his first trip to Yankee Stadium, Ben Sheets had it all planned out. Arrive early and visit Monument Park, gaze up at that famous facade, drink in the entire experience the same way any fan would.

One big difference, though: The Milwaukee Brewers ace also will get the ball to start Tuesday night's All-Star game for the National League.

"I'm not going to let a stadium intimidate me," Sheets said Monday in a hotel ballroom, hours before zipping uptown for batting practice and workouts. "At least while I'm sitting here I'm not."

Cleveland's Cliff Lee was picked by Boston manager Terry Francona to start for the AL, highlighting a remarkable resurgence for the left-hander after he was demoted to the minors last year.

Now, he's the best of the best as Major League Baseball salutes Yankee Stadium in its final season.

"I'm just honored to be here, to be honest with you. To get

the start for me is icing on the cake," said Lee, 12-2 with a 2.31 ERA. "I'm kind of awestruck by it."

NL manager Clint Hurdle of Colorado tabbed Sheets, who is 10-3 with a 2.85 ERA. Several other NL All-Stars pitched Sunday, making the well-rested Sheets a logical choice.

"Really looking forward to this opportunity to go out there, last All-Star game in Yankee Stadium history," Sheets said. "I know one thing, it's going to be glowing as I pull up."

"I'm going to definitely do a sightseeing tour today, and I'm going to enjoy every minute of it."

After getting to the ballpark, Sheets was struck by the cramped clubhouse and narrow walkways, outdated elements of a venue that opened in 1923.

"It just seems a little bit smaller than other stadiums I've been in," he said. "The other stadiums are new."

Both managers announced their lineups Monday in the same Manhattan banquet room

where the Mitchell Report on drugs in baseball was released seven months before.

Seattle right fielder Ichiro Suzuki will bat leadoff for the AL, followed by Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter, Texas center fielder Josh Hamilton, New York third baseman Alex Rodriguez, Boston left fielder Manny Ramirez, Rangers designated hitter Milton Bradley, Red Sox first baseman Kevin Youkilis, Minnesota catcher Joe Mauer and Boston second baseman Dustin Pedroia.

Francona kept more than numbers in mind when putting together his batting order. "For me, a Derek Jeter deserves to hit at the top of the order, in a place like this especially," he said.

The manager also acknowledged he thought about whether to honor Yankees closer Mariano Rivera with the start in his home ballpark—but only because Francona was asked about it by reporters.

"Mariano may be the greatest reliever of all-time, but he's not a starter," Francona said.

"You're putting a guy possibly at risk doing something he's not done. We will treat every player in this game with a lot of respect, certainly knowing that there are Yankees involved in this game. But other than that, I think we are doing it correctly."

Francona wouldn't even commit to calling on Rivera to close out a ninth-inning lead, saying he didn't want to divulge his plans.

"I'm going to stick my neck out there and say we'll prepare for him a little bit, watch a little video," Hurdle said, drawing laughs.

Hurdle put Florida shortstop Hanley Ramirez at the top of his order, followed by Philadelphia second baseman Chase Utley, Houston first baseman Lance Berkman, St. Louis slugger Albert Pujols at designated hitter, Atlanta third baseman Chipper Jones, Colorado's Matt Holliday in right field, Milwaukee left fielder Ryan Braun, Chicago's Kosuke Fukudome in center and Cubs rookie catcher Geovany Soto.

"It's the best lineup that I've

ever written down on paper, so we'll see where it takes us," Hurdle said.

Sheets is set to become the first Brewers pitcher to start an All-Star game - three days before his 30th birthday. His most recent outing was last Wednesday, when he struck out 11 batters in six innings of a loss to the Rockies.

"Kind of got my eye. I'm real smart like that," Hurdle said.

Hurdle said he looked closest at the All-Star pitchers who were voted in by players when he was deciding which one would start.

That group included Sheets, Chicago's Ryan Dempster, San Francisco's Tim Lincecum, Cincinnati's Edinson Volquez and Arizona's Brandon Webb. Dempster, Lincecum and Webb all started Sunday, while Volquez earned his 12th win Saturday.

Sheets' All-Star bonus doubled to \$50,000 for being selected as the starting pitcher.

His 5-year-old son sat next to him during an interview session at the hotel, wearing a Brewers

cap and a replica of his dad's All-Star jersey. The right-hander said he'd have nearly 10 family members at Yankee Stadium to watch him pitch Tuesday.

"I'm just going to try to take it all in and enjoy myself," Sheets said. "I was nervous more so about this interview than the game."

The 29-year-old Lee compiled a 0.67 ERA during his first seven starts. He was 18-5 in 2005 but went 5-8 with a 6.29 ERA last year, when he was optioned to the minors for more than a month.

"There's a lot of pitchers this year that are having outstanding, not only years but certainly first halves, and none measured up to Cliff's," Francona said.

The last Indians pitcher to start an All-Star game was Charles Nagy in 1996 at Philadelphia—the last time the National League won.

"We will attempt and make every effort to put a foot down and stop this slide," Hurdle said. "We're not going to play for a tie. We are definitely going to throw it out there."

Brett Favre: Packers should let me play elsewhere



MILWAUKEE (AP)— Brett Favre finally is speaking for himself: He wants to play but doesn't feel welcome in Green Bay, so he's asking to be released. The quarterback's first substantial comments on his latest retirement decision reversal come in an interview with Fox News on "On the Record with Greta Van Susteren."

"OK, you guys have a different path, fine," Favre said, recalling a June 20 conversation with Packers coach Mike McCarthy. "What does that mean for me? So that means either you give me my helmet, welcome back, or release me, or attempt to trade me. We all know that's a possibility, but way-out-there possibility."

"And he says, 'Well, playing here is not an option, but we can't envision you playing with another team, you know, either.' And I thought, so basically, I'm not playing for anyone if I choose to come back."

According to Van Susteren, who spoke to the AP by telephone Monday afternoon, Favre said he was "never fully committed" to retiring and felt pressured by the Packers to make a decision, a notion Packers general manager Ted Thompson and coach Mike McCarthy tried to dispel in an interview with the AP on Saturday.

"Ted always wanted Brett back," McCarthy said. "We always wanted Brett back."

The team had no immediate reaction to Favre's interview Monday.

"We currently have nothing to add on this matter," a team spokesman said.

Favre told Fox he understands that the Packers want to move on—but if they're doing so, they should let him go.

"Them moving on does not bother me," Favre said. "It doesn't. I totally understand that. By me retiring March 3, I knew that could possibly happen. All I was saying is, you know, I'm thinking about playing again."

Favre said he has thought about the ramifications of playing for another team, moving to another city, and angering some Packers fans.

"You know, the bottom line is, I may not play anywhere," Favre said. "But we have thought of all those things. We have thought about it."

Van Susteren—who is from Appleton, Wis., is a Packers shareholder and previously had interviewed Favre and

his wife, Deanna—said Favre made it clear he would not return to the Packers if he wasn't the starter. And while Favre said the Packers asked him for a list of teams to which he would accept a trade, he wants to be released to make sure he ends up on a competitive club.

Thompson said the team wasn't going to release Favre, but he could come back in a "different role than he was" because the team is committed to going forward with Aaron Rodgers.

inquiries as of Saturday.

Thompson and McCarthy gave AP a detailed description of their dealings with Favre throughout the offseason, including an episode a few weeks after Favre's retirement where the two were prepared to fly to Mississippi to seal the deal on a Favre comeback—only to have the quarterback change his mind again.

In the interview, Favre said the Packers were being dishonest, although he did not point out specific examples in the portion

whether he still had the commitment to play football. But Favre told Fox News it wasn't going to be an issue.

"If I'm going to play it's going to be 100 percent commitment," Favre said.

Favre's interview—which was receiving top billing over an interview with presidential candidate John McCain in promos for Van Susteren's show that aired during the day Monday—is the latest development in what is looking more and more like an irreparable schism



Charles Mollenkamp, 17, of Brookfield, Wis., shows his support to bring back Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre, at a rally outside Wisconsin State Fair Park on Monday, July 14, 2008, in Milwaukee. AP

"You're telling me playing there is not an option, but playing elsewhere, we just can't—we're trying to protect your legacy," Favre said. "Well, thank you. I appreciate that. But apparently now, they're trying to protect my legacy by bringing me back and having me be a backup. Boy, that is really good."

Thompson and McCarthy wouldn't discuss the possibility of trading Favre and said they hadn't received any trade

of the interview aired Monday. A second segment is scheduled to air Tuesday.

"If you move on, you tell me one thing, don't come back and tell the public ... just say it, 'You know, we've moved on and we'll work with Brett on whatever it is,'" Favre said. "Don't make up a lot of stuff or give half of the truth."

McCarthy and Thompson also expressed concern Saturday that Favre spent most of the offseason questioning

between one of the NFL's most storied franchises and perhaps its most beloved quarterback.

Thompson called the situation "gut-wrenching" Saturday.

"I mean, it hurts," he said. "I'm not talking about physically hurting, but the sensitivity. We understand where the fans are coming from. This is a hot-button issue that surpasses anything I've ever gone through."

Piepoli wins 10th Tour stage; Evans takes race lead after punishing day in Pyrenees



HAUTACAM, France (AP)—A

bruised and sore Cadel Evans took the yellow jersey at the Tour de France after Leonardo Piepoli of Italy won a punishing climb through the Pyrenees to capture the 10th stage on Monday.

Evans, the 31-year-old Silence-Lotto leader and one of the favorites, swiped the race lead from Kim Kirchen and has a one-second lead over Frank Schleck.

The performance was even more striking because Evans took the lead a day after crashing badly in Sunday's stage, coating the Australian with cuts and bruises and causing him to momentarily fear that his Tour might be over.

"Yesterday, I was at what's for me been my Tour low. And today, up until this point in the Tour, it's been my Tour high," Evans said.

"It's a bit an emotional roller-coaster to say the least."

Evans' eyes welled up with tears as he donned the yellow jersey on a podium at a post-race ceremony. It was the first time he has ever held the Tour lead, having finished second behind Alberto Contador of Spain last year.

"I still can't believe it. I couldn't believe it now and I couldn't believe it then on the podium," he said.

Evans will take the lead into the first two rest days Tuesday. The three-week race finishes in Paris on July 27—and he says he wants to try to stay in yellow until then.

Evans only rarely attacked the other pre-race favorites who distanced themselves from the main pack in the 156-kilometer (96.9-mile) stage from Pau to Hautacam. The stage featured the passes of Tourmalet and Hautacam—climbs so hard they are beyond classification.

Piepoli finished a split second ahead of his Saunier Duval teammate, Juan Jose Cobo Acebo of Spain. Schleck was third, 28 seconds back, and Evans and several other title threats trailed 2 minutes, 17 seconds behind.

Evans came into the stage six seconds behind Kirchen, who struggled up the Hautacam and finished 4:19 off Piepoli's pace—falling to seventh overall and ending his four-day run in yellow.

Christian Vande Velde, the Garmin-Chipotle team leader who kept in Evans' bunch, held on to third—38 seconds back. Denis Menchov—the man who Evans has said he fears most—also kept up with the Australian and is 57 seconds back in fifth. Carlos Sastre is sixth, 1:28 back.

The day's biggest loser was Alejandro Valverde, the Spanish national champion seen as a potential title threat. He couldn't keep up with his main rivals up

the first climb up Tourmalet, and continued to lose time. He finished 5:52 behind Piepoli and now trails Evans by 4:41.

"It's finished for the podium," Caisse d'Epargne sporting director Eusebio Unzue said of Valverde's chances of a top-three finish.

History may be playing in Evans' favor. In the three Tour stages to finish at the Hautacam, the rider who emerged from the stage up its punishing 14.4-kilometer (8.9-mile) ascent in yellow kept the shirt all the way to the finish in Paris—Miguel Indurain in 1994, Bjarne Riis in 1996, and Lance Armstrong in 2000.

"Like the others who took the yellow jersey on the Hautacam, I hope I can continue in it," Evans said.

Remy di Gregorio, a 22-year-old Frenchman who crashed out of his first Tour last year with a broken elbow, led the pack over

the 17.7-kilometer (11-mile) Tourmalet pass—the longer of the stage's two massive climbs.

The group of favorites ultimately overtook di Gregorio early in the climb up the Hautacam, with just under 12 kilometers (7.46 miles) to go—when the leaders also put on a gap on promising Andy Schleck, Frank's younger brother and Team CSC teammate.

Mark Cavendish of Britain, who won the fifth and eighth stages, and Danny Pate of the United States crashed early in the stage. They got back on their bikes, and Cavendish was treated by the race doctor for an injury to his left shoulder.

Yury Trofimov of Russia quit the race after catching a cold and feeling fatigued, Bouygues Telecom sporting director Didier Rous said. The pack now includes 169 riders, 11 fewer than at the start of the race.

Report: Donaghy made 134 calls to fellow referee



NEW YORK (AP)—Former NBA referee Tim Donaghy made more than 100 phone calls to a fellow official at the same time he was providing information to gamblers during the 2006-07 season, Fox News reported Monday.

Citing court documents and phone records it obtained, Fox reported Donaghy placed 134 calls to referee Scott Foster between October 2006 and April 2007, the period during which he has confessed to betting on games or passing on game information to gamblers.

It's not known what information was exchanged during the calls between Foster and Donaghy, who is awaiting sentencing later this month in federal court.

The 41-year-old Donaghy pleaded guilty last year to felony charges of taking cash payoffs from gamblers in the 2006-07 season. He faces up to 33 months in prison.

NBA commissioner David Stern has called Donaghy a "rogue, isolated criminal" acting on his own, without the cooperation of any other referees or league officials.

"The government had complete access to Tim Donaghy's phone records and thoroughly investigated this matter, including conducting an interview of referee Scott Foster," the NBA said in a statement. "The government has said that they have found no evidence of criminal conduct aside from that of Mr. Donaghy. Once again, the only criminal conduct is that of Mr. Donaghy."

According to a story published Monday on Fox News' Web site, the majority of the phone calls lasted no more than two minutes and occurred before and after games Donaghy officiated and on which he admits wagering.

Reached for comment by Fox, Foster was asked if he was being investigated by the NBA, the government or anyone else.

"Not that I know of," he said.

He declined to comment on his relationship with Donaghy and the nature of the calls.

The only person Donaghy called more often (150 times) was Thomas Martino, to whom Donaghy has said he provided picks to win games and who was the middleman between the former ref and a bookie named James Battista. During this period, the most calls Donaghy made to any other referee were 13, Fox said.

Battista and Martino, who pleaded guilty to defrauding the NBA, are to be sentenced on July 24.

2008 Rotary caging eyes Aug. 4 start



The 2008 Rotary Club Summer Youth Basketball League is eyeing an Aug. 4 start, according to coordinator Elias Rangamar.

With this in mind, Rangamar is calling on all interested teams that would like to participate in

the upcoming youth league to start preparing.

Rangamar said teams should be ready to present documents such as birth certificates or other proof of age as well as waiver forms to the organizing committee.

Entrance fee for the Rotary

league is \$150 for the 15-18 division, while teams hoping to see action in the 14-and-under age group need only to fork over \$100.

Division I (15-18) will be played Monday to Friday beginning Aug. 4, while Division II (12-14) will only play

during weekends, according to Rangamar.

The deadline for submission of team rosters, entry forms, birth certificates and other forms ID, and entry fee is only July 29. At 5pm on that day, Rangamar has also scheduled a final organizational meeting

for all teams involved.

He added that uniforms—at least the top—are required for all teams wishing to take part in the 18-and-under competition.

For more inquiries about the Saipan Rotary Club Summer Youth Basketball League, con-

tact Rangamar at 664-2502.

The defending champion for the 2008 Rotary league is the Rufino Aguon-coached CNMI Junior Nationals, which beat the Southern Sonics in their winner-take-all finals late last year in a score of 98-91. (Mark Rabago)

Agent: 'Prospects bleak' on Bonds returning in '08



N E W
Y O R K
(A P)—

Don't expect to see Barry Bonds showing up in a pennant race. Bonds has not received a single offer, agent Jeff Borris said Monday. He dismissed recent reports of interest from Arizona, the New York Mets and Boston.

"I'm an optimistic guy by nature," Borris said, "and I've told Barry that the prospects look bleak."

Bonds, who turns 44 in two weeks, led the majors last season with a .480 on-base percentage. He finished the year with 762 career home runs and became a free agent when the San Francisco Giants did not bring him back.

"Barry is in shape right now,"

Borris said. "He's not in game shape, so he'd have to have the chance to hit off of live pitching. But he's told me that he would be ready in a very short period of time. He thinks he can be ready 10 days, two weeks."

"And with the first trading deadline coming up, I can't understand why my phone is not ringing off the hook," he added. A 14-time All-Star outfielder, Bonds was absent for All-Star media day Monday, a day before the game at Yankee Stadium.

"He was in this room last year. It's a weird feeling. The same player," Borris said, surrounded by National League stars in a hotel ballroom. "His 2007 performance would indicate that he had legitimate shot of being in

this room again.

"No one is even asking about him. I talk to the clubs every day for a variety of reasons and his name is never brought up anymore. I'm more convinced now than ever that he won't be in a major league uniform in 2008, and I think that's a pathetic way for him to go out," he said. "I think he's deserving of better. He gave his heart and soul to this game."

New York Mets closer Billy Wagner missed Bonds.

"I hate that he's not here," the six-time All-Star reliever said. "Barry usually gave me a ride to the stadium."

"I judge a person by how they treat me, and he always treated me well," he said. "Such a great player, it's sad."

Borris has previously said Bonds would be willing to play for a prorated share of the \$390,000 minimum and donate his salary to buy tickets for kids.

The players' union has told the commissioner's office it was concerned over the lack of offers for Bonds. No grievance has been filed.

Bonds was indicted last November on charges he lied when he told a grand jury in 2003 he didn't knowingly use performance-enhancing drugs. A trial is scheduled to start March 2 in San Francisco.

"People consider him the poster boy for the steroid era," Borris said.

Bonds hit .276 last year with 28 home runs, 66 RBIs and a

major league-high 132 walks. He was the prime focus of the All-Star game last July when it was held at the Giants' waterfront ballpark, and he broke Hank Aaron's home run record of 755 the next month.

The Red Sox (David Ortiz), the Mets (Moises Alou) and Arizona (Eric Byrnes) have lost key players this year in their quest to division titles. Those injuries led to speculation their teams might pursue Bonds.

"The rumors about Arizona,

the Mets and Boston are completely false. He never had a secret workout with the Red Sox," Borris said. "I've had numerous conversations with all three organizations, back to the time when Barry became a free agent in November of '07, and none of those clubs are interested in him."

"Barry would play for any one of those clubs if they extended an offer," he said. "Would he make a difference in the standings? I think so, no matter what team he played for."

MAJOR

From Page 28

He said the team also had to replace PTI Dolphins rightfielder R.J. Knecht with A.J. Castro after the former sustained a leg injury. He said Castro is a welcome addition to the team's pitching corps and could also serve as an extra infielder.

Making up the rest of the team are Jared Sablan, Jun Rabauman, Raymond Saralu, A.J. Lizama, Frankie Camacho,

Jonah Flores, Jerome Reyes, Keene Deleon Guerrero, Jeremy Lizama, and Poland Masaharu.

Helping Aguon in the dugout are head coach Elmer Sablan and assistant coach Many Sablan.

Saipan's best 9-12-year-old ballplayers booked a ticket to the 2008 Asia-Pacific Major League Tournament in Hong Kong after beating Rota, 11-1, last June 12 at the Joaquin Ogo Sr. Baseball Field in Sinapalo.

The CNMI Major League All-Stars will play their first

game on July 19 when they go up against the Philippines at 1pm at the main field.

The team then faces off with Australia on Sunday, July 20, beginning 12:30pm at the secondary field of venue, which is a mere 10-minute walk from Hollywood Disneyland.

The CNMI's third game will then pit the Major All-Stars against archrival Guam in the 11:30pm on July 21 at the secondary field. New Zealand will be up next for the local boys when they square off against them on July 22

The CNMI wraps up its elimination round assignment on July 23 when it takes on Indonesia at the secondary field starting at 10:30pm. Ada said the finals of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Major League Tournament will be held on July 24.

Team CNMI will then return to Saipan the very next day, July 25. Other countries taking part in the tournament are China, South Korea, Chinese-Taipei, Thailand, India, Singapore, and host Hong Kong.

JONES

From Page 28

champ with six credited to him last season, while teammate Oferio Taitano and Fielders' Ben Flores won the homerun race with two homers each.

Tom Agulto was the RBI champ after the Fielders star brought home 19 runs

ners last season.

In team awards, PTI Dolphins won the pennant championship with Jets and Fielders finishing second and third in the regular season.

In the playoffs, Jets were supreme after winning the Senior League crown with a 9-8 victory over Fielders last May 26.

Trailing 8-7 and down to their final two at-bats, the defending

champion took advantage of an error by the Fielders shortstop that allowed Toby Fleming to race home and score when he should have been stranded at second base.

Eli Aughenbach then tucked in the go-ahead run following another miscue by the Fielders' infielders. Jets hard-hitting pitcher Chris Myers then made short work of the opposing hit-

ters in the top of the seventh to preserve the win for the Jets.

Dolphins claimed the third spot in the 2008 Senior League's playoffs,

Tanapag Falcons (Big League champions) also were feted Saturday with SLLBA officials awarding them their trophies. Full details of their successful season will be published in the *Saipan Tribune* in the coming days.

ATM

From Page 28

Ponce and Steve Rasa led Autonomous to its fourth win in five games with 25 and 24 points, respectively, while lanky forward James Villacrusis was the lone bright spot for the suddenly struggling BoG team finishing with 25 markers. The loss dropped BoG's record to 6-3.

In the second game, Department of Corrections put the handcuffs on Aguagut in yet another one-side affair, 101-74.

After taking a modest 23-19 lead following the first 10 minutes of play, DOC finally flexed its

muscles in the second and led 51-39 at the break. They continued to lord it over Customs and took a 71-59 advantage into the fourth before capping the win with a scoring barrage in the fourth.

Luis Iguel's game-high 27 paced DoC in the win, which was its fourth in six games, with Jeff Quittugua adding 23 in support.

Aguagut, which lost its fourth game as against two wins, was led by the 17 and 16 points of two Jasons—Lizama and Sablan.

Last Friday, league host PTI raced to its third straight win after easily handling Tinian, 94-72, in the nightcap.

Twin Towers Edsel Mendoza

and Bruce Berline did the most damage for PTI with 26 and 23 points, respectively, while Anthony Borja's game-high 27 markers led Tinian, which lost its fourth match in seven games.

In the opener, Autonomous didn't even had to shed their warm-ups in beating Department of Public Safety after the latter lost by forfeit.

First Game

Autonomous 93 – P. Rasa 25, S. Rasa 24, Wesley 19, Camacho 10, Kapileo 6, Aaron 5, Coldeen 4.

Bank of Guam 75 – Villacrusis 25, Diaz 18, Taisacan 17,

Pelisamen 11, Lee 3.

Scoring by quarters: 22-18,

47-33, 67-52, 93-75.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Gilbert Espinosa.

Second Game

DOC 101 – Iguel 27, Quittugua 23, Mendez 12, Joab 8, Mendiola 6, Iramk 4, Itibus 4, Castro 4, Killion 2, Kwon 2, Blas 2.

Aguagut 74 – Lizama 17, J. Sablan 16, R. Sablan 8, Reyes 7, Guerrero 7, P. Sablan 7, J.P. Sablan 4, Camacho 2, Iguel 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-19,

51-39, 71-59, 101-74.

Referees: Dado Vistal and Eric Artillaga.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	57	.588	—
Tampa Bay	55	.585	1/2
New York	50	.526	6
Toronto	47	.495	9
Baltimore	45	.484	10

Central Division

Chicago	40	.574	—
Minnesota	42	.558	1 1/2
Detroit	47	.500	7
Kansas City	43	.448	12
Cleveland	41	.436	13

West Division

Los Angeles	38	.600	—
Oakland	44	.537	6
Texas	46	.521	7 1/2
Seattle	37	.389	20

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Govt Basketball Standings

PTI	3	0
NMC	4	1
Autonomous	4	1
BOG	6	3
DCCA	4	2
DOC	4	2
Tinian	3	4
Aguagut</		

Advocates, Captain Morgan's, Gil Fever win

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Devil's Advocates, Captain Morgan's, and Gil Fever won their games in Week 4 of the 2008 Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Co-ed Soccer Summer League held at the CPA Airport Field.

Last July 8, Devil's Advocates edged Sureshanks, 1-0, in a game that saw both teams miss key players.

There was not much offense in the game and Devil's Advocates only managed to get the win when a Sureshank player mistakenly booted the soccer ball on their own net.

Rio Sawhill and Jesse Phonsutjitt missed the game for Devil's Advocates, while Sureshanks' Brenda Schultz and team captain Steve Mckagan were in Guam.

The win leveled Devil's Advocates' win-loss record to 2-2, while Sureshanks went down to its second loss as against a win and a tie.

The following day, July 9, Chris "Rhino" Nelson found the back of the net twice in the first half to put Captain Morgan's on top, 2-0, against Deaniacs.

Deaniacs fought back in the second half, with Madison Smith scoring



Cloud scored before halftime. GMF's Dan Westphal didn't exactly help his team's cause when he scored on another own goal in the second half to make it 2-0 in favor of Gil Fever.

The win gave Gil Fever a 4-0 record, while the loss gave GMF a 1-2-1 win-loss card.

In the race to the Golden Boot award, Jack Thethaiguy of Gil Fever is running away from the competition with five goals to his credit. In the women's category, Lindsay Sosovec leads three other women by one goal.

The Coed Summer League is a non-competitive league. While results and goals are tallied, the No.1 rule of this league is to have fun.

NMIFA Co-ed Soccer Summer League coordinator Angelo Villagomez said the league lasts for eight weeks, with games played on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons. Each team will play one game per week.

Games will start at 5:15pm on game days and will consist of two 35-minute halves with five-minute halves.

For more information about the 2008 NMIFA Co-ed Soccer Summer League, contact co-ed league commissioner Angelo Villagomez at 285-6462.

Week 4 of the 2008 Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Co-ed Soccer Summer League saw Devil's Advocates, Captain Morgan's, and Gil Fever notch wins at the CPA Airport Field.

the goal of the week off a beautiful pass from Jersh Angeles, but it wasn't enough to force a tie or a win, as Captain Morgan's took the match, 2-1.

The win allowed Captain Morgan's to improve to 3-1, while Deaniacs remained in the cellar with its fourth loss in as many games.

On July 10, Gil Fever remained perfect for the 2008 season after beating GMF, 2-0.

Gil Fever drew first blood when Jeff

FIVB Coaches Course application deadline today

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The deadline for submission of application forms for Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association's

FIVB Coaches Course - Level 1 (How to Coach) clinic is today.

NMIVA president Laurie Peterka said those interested in enrolling in the clinic should complete an application form and deposit the fee—\$150 for non-NMIVA members or \$130 for NMIVA members—with NMIVA by July 16.

Applications can be submitted at Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room between 6pm to 8pm to Sia Maui Delacruz, Kelley Butcher, or Russ Quinn.

Peterka added that NMIVA will only be accepting the first 30 applicants to the FIVB Coaches Course - Level 1 (How to Coach) clinic that will be conducted by Tomas Santamaria of Australia.

The enrollment fee will cover the cost of the coaching work-

book, videos and handouts, equipment for training, T-shirts, facilities, and a graduation banquet at Pacific Islands Club.

Part of Volleyball World Vision 2012, the program is for under-privileged countries and is also dubbed the Volleyball

Cooperation Programme.

Graduates of this program will earn an FIVB Level 1 Coaching Certificate—an invaluable asset towards the development of volleyball for both the CNMI as a whole and for the individuals who complete the course.

If you have any questions or are looking for additional information, contact Peterka at laurie.peterka@saipan.com or NMIVA board member Russ Quinn at saipanruss@yahoo.com.

NMIVA is the CNMI's umbrella volleyball association covering all aspects of indoor and outdoor games and players. NMIVA is a bona fide current member of FIVB and NMASA.

All of the organization's fundraisers put money into the development of volleyball in the CNMI. NMIVA is encouraging volleyball enthusiasts to become a member today for a mere \$20 a year. Members get regular email updates and discounts on all NMIVA-sanctioned volleyball events throughout the year.



MARK RABAGO

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association will be hosting a FIVB Coaches Course - Level 1 (How to Coach) clinic next month.

Sufa Softball meeting tomorrow



The Sufa Softball Association will hold its final organization meeting for its

Softball Tournament Fundraiser tomorrow, July 17, 6pm at the Gilbert Ada Gymnasium conference room.

SSA vice president Joe Salas said, so far, from eight to nine teams have signed up for the competition, but they are still entertaining last-minute entries.

"The registered teams will have to draw for each respective slot number to commence the following day," he said.

SSA's Softball Tournament Fundraiser was supposed to be held last weekend but has since been moved to July 18, 19, and 20.

Sufa Softball's competition will both use the Miguel "Tan Ge" Field at the Oleai Sports Complex and the Capital Hill Field at the foot of Mt. Tapochao.

Aside from the one-week postponement, everything about the competition stands. The tournament begins on July 18 and will be played from 5pm to 11pm at the Tan Ge Field.

The July 19 schedule will be a lot earlier and will commence at 9am until 5pm at the Capital Hill Field. Championship day will be Sunday, July 20, and will be from 9am to 5pm at the Capital Hill Field.

In the event Mother Nature

cancels a game, the Capital Hill Field will still be available for use from 6:30pm to 11:30pm.

Entrance fee for the three-day tourney is \$150. The champion will take home \$150, the runner-up \$75, and third place \$50.

Mike Borja and Roque Celis will be serving as tournament director of the competition.

For more information about the Sufa Softball Association's Softball Tournament Fundraiser, call Salas at 483-3501, Jovie Flores at 287-5515, or Delbert Sablan at 286-3146. (Mark Rabago)

SPORTS BRIEFS

King and Queen of the Diamond meeting today

The Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamond Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Tournament will hold an organizational meeting today, July 16, 6pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Tournament coordinator Joey Dela Cruz said all nine teams that took part in the first leg of the competition are invited to take attend the organizational meeting. The second leg of the King and Queen of the Diamond will be held on Aug. 2 and 3 at the Capital Hill Field. The first leg of the King and Queen of the Diamond was held last May 17 and 18 with Shell Marianas, the former No Ka Oi, winning the championship after beating SaiPal in the title game. Other teams that took part in the first leg of the tournament were second runner-up Team Chaos, Peligrus, Jamack How, PPP Jets, Coral Reef Red Snappers, Team Sufa, and Shell Made to Move. The winners of the first, second, and third legs of the Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamond will play each other in the championship round to determine the overall champion, which will represent Saipan in a tournament in Palau later in the year. MARPAC, the exclusive distributor of Budweiser on Saipan, will pay for the tickets of all 15 players of the winning team. For more information about the Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamond Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Tournament, call Dela Cruz at 664-2503 or 287-6509. (PR)

SML Fall League set to start

The upcoming 2008 SML Fall League season is tentatively scheduled to open in late August or early September. The developmental league will again play host to players ages 25 and under. This year marks the ninth season the program has been in existence since it was first inaugurated in 1999. As in previous years, the SML requires players to submit proof of eligibility documents such as birth certificates, passports, and driver's license. In addition, copies of insurance policy or card must accompany these documents. This is important to ensure players are fully covered by their individual health and life insurance in case of injury during league play. Returning players are not required to provide eligibility documents since they are on record files. However, all players, to include returnees must have some type of insurance coverage in order to play. Players without insurance coverage are asked to contact the SML to make arrangements. The league's entry fee—in the amount of \$800—should be made payable to Saipan Major League and is due on Aug. 22. A 25-man team roster is due prior to opening of the league. Teams are encouraged to start securing sponsors that would provide for the teams' necessities such as the entry fee and uniforms. An organizational meeting is set for Aug. 4, 12noon at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room to detail out plans for the upcoming league. Waiver forms will be provided to all teams on this day. Managers and coaches and other interested teams are asked to bring all pertinent documents to this meeting. For more information, contact league coordinator Tony Rogolifoi, at 288-3515. (PR)



Advocates, Captain Morgan's, Gil Fever win

Devil's Advocates, Captain Morgan's, and Gil Fever won their games in Week 4 of the 2008 Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Co-ed Soccer Summer League held at the CPA Airport Field.

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Sports

28 WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hamilton has record round, but Morneau wins Derby

Josh Hamilton dreamed it. Now he's done it. With a dazzling display of power Monday night, the Texas Rangers slugger hit a record 28 homers in the first round of the All-Star Home Run Derby.

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Major Leaguers ready for HK

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The CNMI Major League All-Stars are primed up and ready for the big show as they are set to leave tomorrow for Hong Kong, site of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Major League Tournament.

The *Saipan Tribune* caught up with their manager Randall Aguon last Saturday and asked how he felt about the CNMI All-Stars' chances in the former crown colony.

"Well, we got to try our best and beat all these teams in the Pacific Division.

We're looking forward to play in the championship game. We've been practicing since we came back from the District Tournament on Rota and that's from Monday to Saturday, three hours a day."

Aguon, who served as team manager for the Bank of Saipan Red Sox this past season, said the month-long practice sessions have helped a lot in improving the team's strengths and tweak his players' weaknesses.

"We got a lot of good pitchers. We got a lot of good batters. But running and hitting are the ones we want to improve on. We need to run a little faster and pick up our speed in batting. Kids are doing good. They're in excellent shape," he said.

Aguon said the 2008 CNMI Major League All-Stars are essentially a rookie team as only four players are returning from last year's squad—Jeremy Rabau-liman, Chris Mizer, A.J. Lizama, and Ricky Joe Riungel.

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MARK RABAGO
Lefty Joshua Jones made a name for himself in the playoffs where the Jets disposed off all challengers en route to winning the Senior League championship.



MARK RABAGO
Juan Iguel was named the regular season MVP of the 2009 Junior League after leading the age group in two divisions—batting and runs.

Jones, Iguel are Seniors MVPs

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Third of a four-part series

Jets teammates Juan Iguel and Joshua Jones won the regular season and playoff MVPs of the Senior division of the 2008 Saipan Little League Baseball Association.

Iguel was named MVP of the regular season after leading the age group in two divisions—

batting and runs.

The budding track star finished with a .537 success rate from the batter's box and rounded the bases for league-leading 27 last season.

Jones, meanwhile, made a name for himself in the playoffs where the Jets disposed off all challengers before winning the championship.

The flame-throwing left-hander also did some

heavy lifting for the defending champions in the regular season, as attested by his ERA and strikeout championship trophies. Jones finished the 2008 season with 37 strikeouts to go along with his 0.85 earned run average.

Other individual awardees in the Senior League were doubles champs Ionis Rasa and Anthony Tenorio, both of the Fielders, who connected on seven two-baggers apiece.

Dolphins' Nokki Saralu was named the triples

See **JONES** on Page 26



before winning the championship.

The flame-throwing left-hander also did some

Tsunami Saipan's new season to start Aug. 4 ATM routs BoG Express, 93-75

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan will start its 2008-2009 season on Aug. 4 and this early, head coach Hiro Kimura is already envisioning big things for the fledgling swim club.

"There are many targets for each swimmer in the new season. For Rezne Wong, it will be the Junior Pan Pacific, which will be held in Guam this January 2009. For Shin Kimura, I want him to break the CNMI record this year and

MARK RABAGO
Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said the club's tadpoles are anticipated to grow up quickly under the club's guidance at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool this coming season.



for Marystar Welch, getting some medals at the Guam International Meet will be the priority," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Kimura also has his eyes on Tsunami Saipan's next generation of swimmers and said the club's tadpoles are anticipated to grow up quickly under the club's guidance at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool this coming season.

"I promise Tsunami's Angels—Angel De Jesus and Angel Marie Tan—that they will make a big splash this season. Hiroto Yanai, who is still seven years old, has also improved so much.

Tennis player Thea Minor has also improved well. I'm looking forward for her to become one of the club's premier butterfliers. I also expect good results this coming season from Ashley and Salofi Welch as well as Kaito Yanai, who is the champion of 2008 Saipan Interna-

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By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Autonomous dealt Bank of Guam its second straight loss as the 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League resumed Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The defending champion of the government league led after all four quarters to post a 93-75 drubbing of BoG, which lost to Northern Marianas College last time out.

Rasa brother Ponce and Steve started things off for Autonomous, as they combined for 12 points to give their team a 22-18 lead after the first quarter.

Ponce Rasa continued his tor-

rid shooting in the second quarter, burning the hoops for 11 points—including six straight buckets at one point—to help Autonomous extend its advantage to 14 points, 46-33, at intermission.

There was more of the same Autonomous juggernaut at the start of the third, but this time Ponce Rasa got help from the likes of Chris Camacho, Tim Wesley, and Ulysses Kapileo, as the team concluded three quarters of play still pretty much in control, 67-52.

Defensive wiz Wesley then brandished his offensive moves in the payoff period, unloading 12 of his 19 points to keep Bank of Guam at bay as Autonomous won running away with the 18-point victory.

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